EVENING EDITION

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EVENING EDITION

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GIRAUD WILL SUCCEED DARLAN AS CHIEF OF PUPPET REGIME; REPORT ON KILLING CENSORED

Assassin Was Not Subordinate, Latest Report Reveals

BAN PLACED ON NEWS

Nichi Nichi

STOCKHOLM, December 25.—General Henri Giraud, rebel French leader, will succeed Admiral Jean F. Darlan, who was assassinated, as the head of the puppet French regime in North Africa, United Press reports from Washington as information obtained from North African sources.

General Giraud flew from France to Algeria immediately upon the invasion of British-American forces into North Africa, and commanded the French troops on the spot. With the appointment of the late Admiral Darlan as the head of the puppet regime, Giraud became the Commander-in-Chief of the French troops in North Africa.

Giraud in Algiers

Domei

LISBON, December 25.—General Henri Giraud arrived at Algiers by air and was welcomed by Major-General Dwight Eisenhower, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. forces in North Africa, and others.

The so-called French Imperial Conference was held this afternoon with the attendance of Governor-General Pierre Boisson of Dakar, Governor-General Emile Nogues of Morocco and others.

No announcement has yet been made as to who will succeed Darlan but as General Giraud has been given authority to maintain peace and order, a rumor is circulated that he has been selected as the successor. However, reports from Algeria state that General Giraud has only been given power to maintain peace and order.

Committed by Visitor

Nichi Nichi

LISBON, December 25.—The assassination of Admiral Jean Francois Darlan, chief of the puppet French regime in North Africa, according to latest reports received here, was not committed by one of his subordinates as previously announced but by a strange young visitor who was refused an interview by the Admiral.

According to the account, at about 3:30 p.m. on December 24, Admiral Darlan just out of his room from his headquarters of the puppet regime facing Algiers Bay, was stepping into the corridor leading therefrom, when a young man sprang out from behind a door and fired a volley of shots from his revolver.

One shot hit Darlan around his mouth, while another was fired into his chest. The assassin, when he saw Darlan collapsing on the spot, started to escape. Presently one of the guard officers of the Admiral pounced upon him and after a struggle, succeeded in arresting the ruffian. One of the guards was hit in the foot by the assassin's shot.

The assassin, the reports explained, came up to the regime's headquarters on the same afternoon to see Darlan. Refused admittance, he hid himself behind the door of a drawing room. The revolver used was an automatic one of the caliber of 25 millimeters.

The culprit was officially announced as a young man of about 23 years old but his nationality and connections were not revealed.

Assassin Not Identified

Domei

LISBON, December 25.—Although one whole day has passed since Admiral Jean F. Darlan was assassinated, no statement has been issued by the authorities in North Africa as to the identity of the assassin.

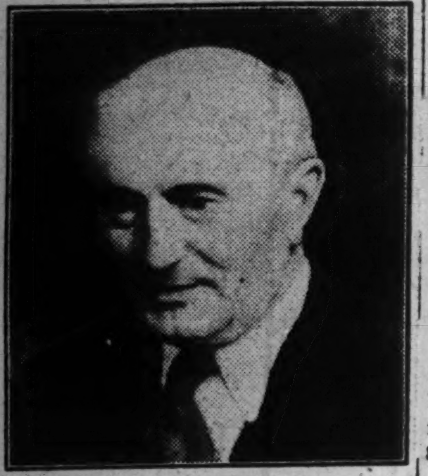
Considering the procrastination of the local authorities in disclosing the real identity of the criminal, it is safe to conjecture that the assassin is a Frenchman who has been enraged by the traitorous act of Darlan.

Although the authorities of the puppet Government has been emphasizing that peace and order is being maintained in North Africa, the situation is reported as serious by a United Press correspondent in Algiers.

It is recalled in this connection

(Continued on Page 2)

Assassinated



Admiral Darlan

POLITICAL MOTIVES SEEN BACKING DEED

Darlan Assassination Viewed Underhand Move by Factions Opposing Vichy

PAID PRICE OF TRAITOR

Vichy Maintains Silence on News—Formal Statement by State Seen Likely

Commenting on the assassination of Admiral Jean Francois Darlan in Algiers, North Africa, which was reported by foreign dispatches yesterday, political observers here attached high significance to the future move of the anti-Axis Powers in the French North African colony, states Domei.

Observers recalled that at the instigation of the United States, the revolt of the French forces in North Africa which was launched by Admiral Darlan placed in an awkward situation the relations between the Americans and the Britishers in North Africa.

The United States, which tried to take advantage of Admiral Darlan's revolt against Vichy for justifying its invasion into the French colony in North Africa, must be disappointed, these circles added.

Intensive political strife always has existed in French political circles, the observers said adding that it was particularly notable in the opposition between Admiral Darlan and the De Gaullists after the former's rebellion against the Vichy Government.

Though the identity of the assassin is not yet known, it is easy to imagine, these circles pointed out, that political underhand moves by the factions opposing Vichy is responsible for Admiral Darlan's assassination.

F.I.C. Comments

Domei

SAIGON, December 25.—The local French colony is cold over the news of Admiral Jean F. Darlan's death.

Apart from personal sentiment, the Frenchmen here seem to be of the opinion that it was a natural end for a traitor who took arms against his motherland.

The late Admiral was a classmate of the present Governor-General of French Indo-China Vice-Admiral Jean Decoux and also of the former F.I.C. Governor-General General Georges Catroux, now Commander of the De Gaullists in Levant, and he had many supporters in French Indo-China before he joined the Anglo-American camp.

Vichy Is Silent

Domei

VICHY, December 25.—The Vichy Government has so far kept silence over the assassination of Admiral Jean Francois Darlan.

At 10 a.m. today, Premier Pierre Laval had a conference over the North African situation with the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet and influential statesmen. It is considered that a formal statement will be made during today by Premier Laval or by the Government.

As regards the report that General Henri Giraud has assumed the leadership of the puppet Government after the death of Admiral Darlan, local political circles are doubtful

(Continued on Page 2)

HUGE BATTLE RAGING ON DON RIVER FRONT; SOVIET REAR STRUCK

Bitter Fighting Reported Amid Snow and Cold Along 800-Kilometer Line

MOSCOW FORCES ACTIVE

Germans Send Reenforcements To Stem Vigorous Thrusts Of Russian Troops

Domei

LISBON, December 25.—The battle in the central sector of the Don River became fierce today, and the fighting line now extends more than 800 kilometers from Rossoshi in the north to Karmensk in the south. Despite the extreme cold and raging snowstorms both sides are fiercely fighting.

The Soviet Information Bureau announced today that the Soviet forces had intercepted the Voronej-Kharkov railway line at a point south of Morzovka, and are still advancing toward the Kharkov-Rostov railway line. However, according to reports from the front, the Soviet forces have not succeeded in breaking through the Ukrainian frontier.

Meanwhile, the German forces are sending large numbers of reinforcements by transport planes, and it is reported that many parachutists are now landing in the rear of Soviet troops.

Soviet Forces Repulsed

Domei

STOCKHOLM, December 25.—In the Orgionikieze sector, on the Central Caucasus front, Soviet forces with strong tank corps at their head, started a fierce counterattack on the German winter defense line yesterday, and today made a desperate attempt to break through the German line regardless of sacrifices. Finally, the Soviets succeeded in driving a wedge into the Alagiel sector.

Meanwhile, later reports reaching from the front state that the German forces made a strong counter attack, with the arrival of reinforcements, and have succeeded in repulsing the Soviets. The retreating Soviet forces are now being surrounded in the east of the city, and the Germans are all out to effect their annihilation.

RITES FOR CHINESE PATRIOT ARE OBSERVED IN TIENTSIN

Nipponese Hold Service for Tang Yu-jen, Who Was Killed By Chiang's Assassins

Domei

TIENTSIN, December 25.—Memorial services were held here today for the late Tang Yu-jen, former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nanking Government, who fell victim to Chiang Kai-shek's assassins while in office seven years today.

The services were held at the Hsinhua Hall under the joint auspices of the Tientsin Nipponese Bankers' Association and the Tientsin Mita Society, a local branch of the alumni organization of the Keio University, from which Mr. Tang graduated.

It is recalled that Mr. Tang met his death at the hands of terrorists while assisting Wang Ching-wei, then head of the Waichiaopu (Foreign Ministry), in his assiduous efforts to bring about a peaceful solution of Sino-Nippon relations.

The ill-fated statesman, it is recalled, was an ardent advocate of peace between Nippon and China on the grounds of his favorite doctrine that Asia is doomed without cooperation between the two countries.

GEN. HO FOR INDIA POST

Domei

CANTON, December 25.—The Chungking Government decided to dispatch General Ho Ying-chin to India as the Commander-in-Chief of the Chunging forces in India, according to a report from Chungking.

It is also reported that General Ho had already flown to New Delhi together with Lieutenant-General Joseph Stilwell. In this connection, it is observed that Ho went to India to confer with the British authorities regarding the recapture of Burma.

Hayashi Visits Wang

Wang Ching-wei, visiting President of the National Government of China at Nanking, in his capacity as the president of the East Asia League of China, held an interview with General Senjuro Hayashi president of the Dai-Nippon Koa Domei, at 3:30 p.m. yesterday at the detached mansion of the Prime Minister's official residence, headquarters of the Nanking Chief Executive, at Hiroo-cho, Azabu-ku.

Photo shows General Hayashi (left) and President Wang (right).

U.S. Fliers, Prohibited to Celebrate Xmas By Chiang, Vow Non-Cooperation in Future

Yomiuri-Hochi

RANGOON, December 25.—With the celebration of Christmas having been banned by the Chungking authorities, the American flying officers stationed in the hinterland of China became indignant and declared that they will not work for Chungking in the future, information reaching here today reveals.

Chungking-governed China is now literally seething in extreme poverty, the report states, and consequently the American officers have had to suffer. Also they have become extremely dissatisfied with the treatment accorded them by the Chungking authorities.

With the hope of having a good time celebrating Christmas, they had made thorough preparations, and had collected every bottle of liquor that they could lay their hands one. The American airmen had also dated up their girl friends.

However, their hopes were dashed on the rocks on December 24, when the Chungking authorities placed a ban on all Christmas celebrations. As a result, the American airman indignantly declared:

"The Chinese people do not understand what Christmas is. Now that we have been given such an 'unkind blow' we will not work for Chungking in the future."

Refuting the claims of the American officers, however, the Chungking authorities said: "The officers of the United States air force are extremely lazy. They do nothing but drink liquor and carry on with girls. Therefore, it is quite unreasonable of them to complain that they cannot celebrate Christmas."

Mud-Slinging Goes On

Domei

RANGOON, December 25.—The "united front" between the American and Chungking forces is but in name only, and in reality, the worst kind of mud-slinging goes on between the two, according to information reaching here today.

Far from satisfied at being sent into virtual exile so far away from home, the Americans, absolutely prohibited from having their usual wine, women and song for Christmas, are taking it out on the Chinese wherever opportunities present themselves.

The Chinese, in turn, are denouncing the disorderly conduct of the Americans whose only object, according to the Chinese, is to act foolishly in their drunken stupor and flirt with the women.

If, they further complained, the Americans were permitted to do as they please on Christmas Day, there would be no telling what foolishness they might resort to. They may go even so far as to avail themselves of this unique opportunity to be sent back home, no matter what the consequences are.

TEACHERS IN SHONAN GET BETTER STATUS

Native Educationalists There Will Enjoy Fair and Unified Treatment

Domei

SHONAN, December 25.—The status of more than 50 native teachers will be improved as an incentive and encouragement toward their efforts to educate native children in national schools, it was decided by the Shonan Special Municipality.

According to the present improvement plan, those engaged in educational activities in the city will be divided into four classes of educational inspectors, principals, teachers and assistant teachers.

Salaries of the first-named three classes will be divided into eight groups, namely, special salaries ranging from ¥300 to ¥400 monthly, first-class from ¥250 to ¥300, second-class from ¥200 to ¥250, third-class from ¥160 to ¥200, fourth-class from ¥120 to ¥160, fifth-class from ¥80 to ¥120, sixth-class from ¥50 to ¥80, and seventh-class salaries from ¥30 to ¥50. Salaries for assistant teachers will be fixed at ¥30 or less monthly.

Prior to the outbreak of the war when Singapore was under British administration, British instructors at British schools received exhorbitantly high salaries amounting to several hundreds of yen monthly, while native teachers at Malai or Indian schools were paid less than ¥30.

Under the new salary system, all teachers serving in schools in the city will enjoy fair and unified treatment without any racial discriminations, one of the guiding principles of the Nipponese administration in the Southern Regions.

POPE PIUS BLESSES WORLD ON XMAS EVE

Message to People Advocates Peace and Order Through Justice, Service

Stefani

ROME, December 24.—Stressing the context of his message to the world last year, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, in his Christmas Eve message this year advocated justice as the means for attaining peace, it was reported here. Underlying the necessity for restoring peace and tranquillity throughout the world, the Pope emphasized the fact that the concept of Christianity is not to dominate but to serve.

"Order," the Pope declared, "will be attained through the reformation of the juridical order, imbedding within it the spirit of Christianity, and casting from it its positive principles."

"Tranquillity," His Holiness added, "is not contrary to the fundamentals of burning activity, but there lies futility in fatigue from over-activity if one cannot find repose in God and in His eternal laws.

After recalling the hostility of the Church to Marxism, His Holiness stressed the fact that the worker must be understood in his aspirations, in his hopes, in his wants, and that he must retain his dignity, his right, and his welfare.

"Intellectual and juridical obstacles which separate the world from God and His World must be eliminated," He affirmed.

"May the Star of Bethlehem shine once again, announcing a happier dawn for the world." His Holiness prayed, concluding his message with the apostolical blessing.

CALCUTTA CITIZENS EVACUATING IN FACE OF NIPPON AIR RAIDS

Government Officials Deserting Posts and Arms Workers Walk Out

BRITISH SAID HELPLESS

Operation of Assam-Bengal Railway Suspended by Order Of Wavell

Yomiuri-Hochi

BANGKOK, December 25.—Since the first bombing of Calcutta by the Imperial Forces, tens of thousands of citizens have been evacuating the city and government officials have been deserting their offices, while the majority of the factory operatives employed in war industries have walked out, with the result that the provincial government has been confronted with a serious situation, it is revealed by information reaching here from India.

According to a New Delhi broadcast intercepted here on Thursday night, Premier Abdul Kasem Fazal Haol of the Bengal Provincial Government gave the following request broadcast to the people of that province: "Hardships and difficulties lie ahead. You are requested to place your confidence in the British Government and meet the situation with composure."

However, it is reported that the Premier's radio address only resulted in adding to the confusion, and Calcutta is now in such a state of disorder that the British authorities are helpless to control it.

Wavell Issues Order

Domei

BANGKOK, December 25.—According to information reaching here from India, Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in India, ordered the operation of the Assam-Bengal railway to be suspended and also prohibited the inhabitants from entering the frontier regions.

The report added that severe punishments will be meted out by court-martial to those who violate the order, it was also announced by the British Commander-in-Chief.

Wavell Holds Confab

Yomiuri-Hochi

BANGKOK, December 25.—Frantic efforts are being made by the Bengal Provincial Government authorities to meet the confusion caused by the bombing of Calcutta by the Imperial Forces, according to information reaching here from India.

Indicative of the seriousness of the situation, is a report that Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Wavell held a conference on Wednesday with the Bengal provincial authorities.

On the same days the provincial government proclaimed an urgent decree prohibiting the inhabitants from carrying firearms and from appearing in the streets at night until October next year.

Demand Independence

Domei

STOCKHOLM, December 25.—The India National Congress Party members in Ceylon approved recently, with an overwhelming majority vote, the withdrawal of their former demand to Britain for the acquisition of the autonomous status of the island, in favor of a demand for freedom by independence, it is reported by a Daily Herald Colombo dispatch.

Leave India, Britishers

Yomiuri-Hochi

BANGKOK, Devember 24.—According to information from India, the Indian masses started a large-scale anti-British demonstration on Monday, soon after the first bombing of Calcutta by the Imperial Forces. The Indian demonstrators marched through the streets, shouting, "Leave India immediately, Britishers, because your presence here endangers our lives."

The demonstrators dispersed in front of the official residence of the Governor of Bengal Province after they demanded the immediate and prompt withdrawal of Britons from India. Then, the British authorities stepped in and arrested several persons who were thought to be the leaders of the demonstration.

Meanwhile, it is reported that all the Indian policemen refused to be called out during the three air raids

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CHILE-U.S. DICKER HITS ROCK; ANTI-AXIS MOVE SEEN DOOMED AS NEGOTIATIONS DEADLOCKED

Anger of Roosevelt Over Darlan's Death Ridiculed in Berlin

Domei

BERLIN, December 25.—Though no official view has yet been made by the German Government regarding the assassination of Admiral Jean F. Darlan, German Foreign Office authorities ridiculed the surprise and anger of the United States Government in the following manner: "President Roosevelt is angry at the assassination of Darlan and has called it a first class murder, but to whom is Roosevelt airing such anger? Darlan was the victim of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's spying and intriguing group. In other words, Roosevelt tried to support Darlan to beat Britain, but Churchill went one step further. Thus, Roosevelt is now angry. It is always Roosevelt's habit to spit against the sky."

Neutrality Faction at Home Strengthened As Talks Fail

DISAPPOINTS MORALES

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 24.—The Chile-United States negotiations at Washington have become hopeless and the Chilean Home Minister, Raul Morales now at Washington is reported to have been greatly disappointed over the United States State Department authorities' failure to give any guarantee of supplying desired goods to Chile that were demanded as compensation for severing diplomatic relations with the Axis Powers, it is revealed by informed quarters here.

The United States Government proposed to Chilean Home Minister Morales a supply of funds through loans or credit establishment, but what Chile desires is not funds but necessary materials for national defense and other purposes. In this respect the views of the two Governments had fundamentally differed, it is reported.

If the Chilean delegation to Washington is to return home without accomplishing anything, those in Chile who have supported breaking off diplomatic relations with the Axis Powers would lose their popularity, and on the other hand the atmosphere for maintaining neutral policy will be encouraged.

Furthermore, former Chilean Presidents General Carlos Ibanez and Don Arturo Alessandri, who are both great political leaders of Chile, are supporting the neutrality movement but because of their political rivalry they have not cooperated with each other in the past. However, it is now reported that in the event of the present Washington negotiation ending in a rupture, the two generals will no doubt issue a joint declaration in support of neutrality. Under the circumstances, it is believed the position of the neutrality group will be greatly strengthened.

Meanwhile, the Chilean Senate has recently been discussing the diplomatic question at their camera sessions and is also scheduled to hold another secret session on December 29 to hear the report of Home Minister Morales concerning the Washington negotiation.

NANKING HEAD SENDS MESSAGE TO IL DUCE

President Wang Stresses Evils Of Imperialism, Communism Must Be Wiped Out

PRAISES MUSSOLINI

Says China and Nippon Determined to Fight War in Close Collaboration

Domei

ROME, December 25.—The necessity of eradicating the evils of Imperialism and Communism was emphasized by President Wang Ching-wei of the National Government of China at Nanking, who is now visiting Nippon, in his message to Premier Benito Mussolini of Italy.

The message, published by the Popolo d'Italia today, follows:

"I am pleased to express, through the Popolo d'Italia, my deepest respect to Premier Mussolini, the first statesman who opened hostilities against Communism and who is now fighting against the evil influences of the moribund Anglo-Saxon Powers.

"The War of Greater East Asia has entered its second year and the allies of the Axis Powers are steadily going ahead toward victory.

"China and Nippon are firmly determined to fight the war in close collaboration till final victory has been achieved. The battlefields in Asia and Europe which have been purified by the precious blood of numerous soldiers will be changed into a Paradise by sincere and industrious people and the world will be freed from the evils of Imperialism and Communism."

HSINMIN SOCIETY MEETS

Celebrates Its Fifth Anniversary With Ceremony

Domei

PEKING, December 24.—A ceremony observing the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Hsinmin Society was held here this morning at its headquarters with the attendance of the entire staff including Lieutenant-General Yoshimichi Suzuki, Highest Adviser and Yu Hsi-chieh, Director of the General Affairs Board of the Society.

During the ceremony, respects were paid to the memories of those who lost their lives for the cause of the Society.

Addressing those present, Lieutenant-General Suzuki urged that that they should renew their determination to contribute toward the prosecution of the Greater East Asia War as well as toward the development of the Society.

Bolivia Strike Ends

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 25.—The Bolivian Government announced that the strike of the miners ended today as the Government has promised to consider their demand for wage increase and the miners have immediately returned to work, it is reported from La Paz.

INCREASING NUMBERS QUIT CHUNGKING CAUSE

Chiang Units Abandoning Old Regime to Ally With New National Government

Domei

TAIYUAN, December 25.—Pressed by the unrelenting mopping-up operations of the Imperial Forces and realizing the futility of further resistance, the number of Chungking soldiers voluntarily surrendering and swearing allegiance to the National Government of China is steadily on the increase in North China.

In November alone, 44 separate groups totaling 437 Chungking troops, including regimental and battalion officers, voluntarily surrendered to the Imperial Forces.

Arms and ammunition turned over by these deflecting troops to the Imperial Forces included seven light machine-guns, 88 rifles, eight automatic rifles, 22 revolvers, 56 hand grenades and a sizeable quantity of ammunition.

U.S. Controls Liberia

By Arrangement with the Asahi
(Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

SAIGON, December 25.—A rumor that the United States will shortly make Liberia a United States colony is now being circulated at London, it is reported from Vichy. It is also said that in the meantime the United States has already practically secured control of Liberia.

TOBACCO CONCERNS IN C. CHINA TO BAND

Nippon, Chinese Manufacturers To Form Powerful Distribution Association

Domei

SHANGHAI, December 25.—To unify the tobacco distribution system in Central China, a large and powerful tobacco distribution association embracing Nipponese and Chinese tobacco manufacturers and tobacco distribution agents in Central China will be established shortly, it was learned here today.

With the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, it is recalled, the British-American Tobacco Company, for which the Young Tai Ho Company distributed its products, was placed under Nipponese military control while 19 Chinese tobacco manufacturing companies offered to cooperate with the Chunghwa Tobacco Company, a Nipponese concern, the products of which had been distributed through the Central China Tobacco Distribution Association.

Meantime, the Nipponese military authorities here today announced the dissolution of the Central China Tobacco Distribution Association which was under Nipponese management and which was organized in November, 1940.

The association donated to the Nipponese military authorities a surplus fund of ¥14,200,000 resulting from the liquidation. The donated sum is to be used for various defense and cultural purposes.

It is expected that the establishment of the projected tobacco distribution organization in Central China, which will assure systematic distribution, will prove a valuable asset in maintaining the value of the currency of the Central Reserve Bank of China and accelerate the shipment of agricultural products in the hinterland.

Political Motives Seen Backing Deed

(Continued From Page 1)

of its reliability, considering the extent of popularity of Giraud.

Had Many Enemies

Domei

LISBON, December 25.—Admiral Jean Francois Darlan had many enemies and few friends and so few people will mourn over his tragic end, commented a Reuters diplomatic reporter, according to a London broadcast.

"We, Englishmen, can never forgive Darlan," asserted the Reuters reporter, "because he was the man who, after the conclusion of the Franco-German Armistice, divulged to the Germans most of the secret information he had obtained from the French and British navies."

This remark is considered to be a clear indication of the views held by the British political circles concerning the assassination of the late rebel Admiral.

Continuing, the same reporter is said to have declared, "The recent incident was caused by a young, hot-blooded student and shows the sentiment toward Darlan prevailing among the Frenchmen.'

This assertion is considered to be endorsing the rumor that the assassin was a De Gaullist.

Emphasizing the unpopularity of Darlan among the French people, the Reuters reporter stated that the Frenchmen could not change their view toward Darlan even after he sided with the American-British camp.

In conclusion, the reporter said, "It is not impossible that in the future, General Henri Giraud will command the Allied French forces and General Charles de Gaulle will take charge of the political and diplomatic businesses."

Had Urged Unity

Domei

LISBON, December 25.—Ironical enough, the late Admiral Jean F. Darlan had issued a statement in a French journal in North Africa urging the anti-Vichy elements to be united as one, only several hours before he was assassinated, information from Algiers reveals.

In his statement, Darlan declared:

"We, who were forced to surrender yesterday, are now fighting with arms. We all have the same aim and unity is necessary to attain the aim.

"I have no intention to organize a French Government in North Africa. I only want to make North Africa the 'base of freedom.' It is not my concern whether the leader of Free France may be I or another person."

Issue Fake Certificates

STOCKHOLM.—Two British medical practitioners named Carr and Paterson have been struck off the medical register in London for issuing "faked" certificates regarding the physical conditions of patients of military age with a view to getting them released from military service, according to London reports.

Press Comments

Saturday, December 26

ASAHI—What Is Expected of the 81st Session of the Diet

TOKYO SHIMBUN—Futile American Air Attack; Darlan Dies a Traitor's Death

What Is Expected of the 81st Session of the Diet

ASAHI—That the Government has recently taken the attitude of straightforwardly asking for cooperation of the various economic organizations and various other people's bodies as well as the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association and the Imperial Rule Assistance Association may be regarded as a noteworthy political tendency. Especially with the leaders of the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association, the Government is maintaining quite close contact in making decisions on various questions and in the enforcement of the measures thus adopted.

For instance, the various draft bills of the Government are being shown to the leaders of the latter body prior to their presentation to the Diet and new plans are informally being put before the same body to see beforehand whether they are acceptable. In response to such an attitude on the part of the Government, the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association itself is undertaking to reciprocate by carefully looking into each of the plans thus shown to it, dispatching members to various parts of the country to conduct inquiries on the spot. Thus, this body may be regarded as having taken on the functions of a standing committee, or committees, of the Diet.

Other Diet preparations of the Government are:

(1) The Cabinet has adopted the policy of discussing in council the more important affairs first, eliminating all measures and facilities which are not directly concerned with the prosecution of the war and have, accordingly, limited the budget, in its general account to under ¥10,000,000,000 despite the recent rising tendency in obligatory expenses.

(2) The Government personnel has been confined to what is strictly necessary, the additions being limited to 2,388 in the next fiscal year's budget.

(3) In order to avoid friction with the Diet, the pending election law amendment bill has been withheld.

These steps are quite timely and are calculated to increase the cooperation of the people with the Government.

The 81st session of the Diet is to open in such an atmosphere of cooperation between the Diet and the Government. What is desirable at such a time is that the Government should place before the Diet all facts, plans and views in as frank a manner as possible, in the expectation that constructive opinions in regard to them will be expressed by Diet members.

Surveying the budget estimates, we find that the so-called obligatory expenses like expenses for issuing bonds and pensions are extremely large, while expenses for enterprising are rather small. Of the scores of bills to be introduced, the majority of them have to do with amendment of the existing laws.

With the resumption of the Diet session after the New Year holidays, additional bills will probably be presented in batches. We expect that such bills as will actually make things move and produce results will be taken up before bills of mere formal value are discussed.

We hope that over and above these specific results a lofty political structure would be reared for warring Japan through the work of the Diet. To add to the historic significance of the 81st session of the Diet is the task now before both the Government and people.

Futile American Air Attack

TOKYO SHIMBUN—According to a communique of the Imperial Headquarters, a United States air unit on the night of December 23 attacked the Otori Island area but was repulsed after four of their number were shot down and six others damaged.

The second half of this year has been marked by the desperate attempts of the United States to counter-attack by the Solomons and the Aleutians, in its major propaganda drive that a large-scale East Asia counter-offensive would be developed side by side with a second front in Europe. Every attempt has been frustrated by Nippon. In the Solomons area, it has lost the bulk of its South Pacific fleet, while the Aleutian route has been found unavailable on account of the winter difficulties. In sheer desperation the United States must have chosen to make a feeble attempt by the frontal route via Midway.

The Anglo-American camp is suffering crushing blows in North Africa with the Italian-German forces turning to the offensive and in East Asia the Americans are meeting defeat after defeat. What face is the leader of the Democracies to show to the world? In sending off the year 1942 amid the cannonade of the World War, let us advise President Roosevelt by saying: The world does not belong to you. We, too, have a right to live.

Darlan Dies a Traitor's Death

TOKYO SHIMBUN—Admiral Darlan, head of the French puppet regime in North Africa, is dead, assassinated in an obscure corner of Algeria. It was a befitting end for a traitor.

Motivated always by self-interest and personal ambition, Darlan had gone his own way amid the tragedy of France. Since the outbreak of the European War he commanded a fleet second in Europe only to the British. Then he became Premier under Marshal Henri P. Petain as the latter's trusted lieutenant and prospective successor. Once the Anglo-American invasion of North Africa began, he decided to sell his country in disregard of his position and duty. Darlan had never been on good terms with the British but he had been coquetting with the United States. President Roosevelt sent Admiral Leahy as Ambassador to Vichy partly to cabal with Darlan. Darlan's view on the Franco-German entente was nothing more than "can't be helped" and in this sense he was the most reactionary among his compatriots. He was thus ripe fruit for the Americans to pluck as their correspondent in their conspiracy against France.

Darlan has fallen the first victim of Roosevelt's interference with European affairs.

1 HOUR'S ADVANCE IN TIME SET FOR FRENCH INDO-CHINA

Saving of Electricity Is Aim—New System Effective From January 1

With a view to economizing electric power, the Government of French Indo-China issued a decree to the effect that from January 1 next year, French Indo-China time will be advanced by one hour, it was officially announced on Thursday, according to the Asahi.

The projected time system, it is further reported will be adopted by all business firms as well as Government offices in French Indo-China.

Since, in the new system there will be only one hour's difference between Tokyo and French Indo-China time, it is expected that the arrangement will prove more convenient to that which exists at present between Nippon and French Indo-China.

MANCHOUKUO ENVOY FETED

Industrial Body Gives Luncheon Attended by 300 Leaders

A luncheon in honor of Wang Yunching, Manchoukuoan Ambassador to Nippon, was given at the Imperial Hotel on Thursday under the joint auspices of the Toa Keizai Kondankai or East Asia Economic Roundtable Conference and seven other economic bodies.

The party was attended by more than 300 leading financiers and industrialists including Aiichiro Fujiyama, president of the Nippon Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

CLEVER U.S. BUSINESSMAN DUPES WAR DEPARTMENT

Gets Car and Chauffeur Every Day by Masquerading as 'Gen. Kimberland'

STOCKHOLM.—How a clever but none-too-honest businessman in Washington obtained a powerful car from the War Department for his business calls and joy rides, is revealed in a dispatch to the London Daily Mail from its Washington correspondent.

It was a very simple game while it lasted. All the businessman had to do was to call up the War Department by phone every morning, bright and early, and say, "This is General Kimberland speaking. Please send a car immediately to my place."

This simple message was good enough for the War Department to send a powerful military car with a liveried chauffeur post-haste to the given address. Then the masquerading general would begin his daily round of business calls and often take joy rides at the expense of the already much harassed United States War Department.

The game was too good to last, however. The "general" somehow made a slip and now he is cooling his heels in the detention cell, waiting to be charged with false pretenses, according to the London Daily Mail.

BRITISH PLAY PART IN NIPPON PICTURE

War Prisoners Delighted to Act In Film, the 'Fall of Singapore'

British prisoners of war who were taken by the Imperial Forces in the course of the operations against Singapore cooperated willingly in the filming of the picture, "The Fall of Singapore," according to Nobuo Miura of the Dai-Nippon Eiga Seisaku Kabushiki Kaisha or the Nippon Motion Picture Production Company, who returned here recently from Shonan, the Tokyo Shimbun reported yesterday, according to Domei.

"The Fall of Singapore," which deals with the landing operations of the Imperial Forces at Kota Bharu and Singora and the capture of Singapore is now being produced in Shonan and its vicinity under the joint direction of Koji Shima and Seijin Koga. The picture stars Koji Nakada and Miss Hiraku Hoshi.

Recently, during the filming on location of the fierce fighting which took place in Malacca, the appearance of British soldiers was required. At first, Mr. Miura said, the Nipponese directors thought the British war prisoners would be ashamed to appear in the scene and would flatly reject the invitation to play in the picture.

But to everyone's surprise, the British war prisoners were more than willing to extend their help. They displayed excellent acting ability and in addition gave many valuable tips and suggestions to the directors by recounting their experiences in the battle which ended in their capture.

With the last scene depicting the fierce battle between the Imperial Forces and the Anglo-Australian units at Bukit Timah soon to be completed in Shonan, the picture will be released on February 11, on the occasion of Empire Day.

ENEMY ON RUN IN TUNISIA

Anglo-U.S. Forces Routed in Attack On Axis Position

Yomiuri-Hochi

ROME, December 24.—On the Tunisian front, British-American forces advanced in an attempt to capture an Axis position located between the Tunisian coast and Atlas ranges on Wednesday, but they were forced to retreat due to the strong resistance offered by German-Italian troops, the Italian High Command announced today.

In this battle, Italo-German forces took 200 prisoners the majority of them being Britishers. Also at various other points on the Tunisian front, Axis forces made local counter-attacks and gained considerable results.

JUDGE OSATAKE RESIGNS

Was Presiding Official in Supreme Court

Dr. Shigeru Osatake, a presiding judge of the Supreme Court and well-known authority on the Meiji Restoration, tendered his resignation Thursday at the age of 62, one year before his age limit.

Dr. Osatake is the author of several valuable books on the history of the constitutional form of government in Japan.

After his resignation he is expected to devote his time to scholarly pursuits in the Tokyo Imperial University and at the Meiji University as lecturer.

Sugar.Beet Crop A.1

ROVNO.—Dry and sunny autumn weather has favorably influenced the sugar-beet crop in the Ukraine. Beets have a high percentage of sugar. Sugar factories are working at top speed, and although figures as regards the harvest are not yet available, competent quarters declare that this year's sugar-beet harvest is so great that the Ukraine will be able to supply the whole of Europe with sugar.

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Calcutta Citizens Evacuating in Face Of Nippon Air Raids

(Continued From Page 1)

by the Imperial Forces, with the result that the British had to take part in defense work and fire fighting. Therefore, the victims of the Nipponese bombings were all Britishers.

Demonstration Breaks Out

By Arrangement with the Asahi (Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

BANGKOK, December 24.—On the occasion of the air raids on Calcutta on Sunday by the Imperial Forces, which resulted in severe damage to the airfield and port facilities there, all the Indian policemen and officials refused to cooperate with the Britishers in defense of the city, it is reported there.

As a result, the British policemen and volunteer corps were obliged to take part in anti-air raid defense work without the support of the Indian police.

To make matters worse, soon after the bombing, the citizens of Calcutta carried out an anti-British demonstration. In front of the official residence of the Governor of Bengal Province they shouted, "Leave India, Britishers. We are being subjected to air raids because of your presence in India."

The British policemen did not hesitate to open fire on the demonstrators with the result that many patriots were either killed or injured.

BRITISH SOLDIERS STAB NEGRO DOUGHBOY IN FRAY

LONDON.—With a dagger sticking in his back, a Negro soldier was found near an underground station in London, says a report received here from the British capital.

Investigations carried out by the police revealed that the Negro soldier had been attacked by a gang of British tommies, whose identity could, however, not be ascertained. The same gang is said to have attacked Negro soldiers from the United States on previous occasions.

British quarters explained that the arrogant attitude of Negro soldiers in Britain toward British soldiers and also toward English girls was calling forth numerous attacks on them.

The London Daily Herald recently reported a shooting affray between British soldiers and United States military police, resulting in casualties on both sides.

ANTI-U.S. FEVER IN IRAN

British Invasion Causes Agitation Against America, Britain

Yomiuri-Hochi

BANGKOK, December 25.—With the invasion of British forces into Teheran, the internal disturbance in Iran, originally caused by food shortage, has now turned to a nationalistic anti-British-American agitation.

According to a report from Teheran reaching here today, this tendency has entered even into army circles, and high officers of the Iranian army, as well as high officials of the National Defense Ministry, resigned en bloc yesterday, thus openly expressing their opposition to their Government leaders who have surrendered themselves to the British-American forces.

Announcement

The Numa Dental Clinic, Rooms 405-6 on the 5th floor of the Kogin Bldg., opposite the Motomachi 1-chome tramcar stop, will hereafter be known as the UCHITOMI DENTAL CLINIC. Dr. S. UCHITOMI, who took over the practice of the late Dr. Numa four years ago, wishes to take this opportunity to thank his many foreign clients for their continued patronage.

GIRAUD TO SUCCEED AS HEAD OF REBELS

(Continued From Page 1)

that President Roosevelt stated that the crime was instigated by the Axis countries, in his statement issued immediately after the report of the incident had been received.

Information from the spot, however, has so far revealed only that the criminal is being examined by the American and British authorities together with those of the French Puppet Government.

It has been learned here that the remains of the late Admiral was kept in the hospital till midnight of December 24 under the watch of the army, air and naval guards and was removed to the chapel in the official residence of the Governor-General early on Christmas morning. A mass will be conducted for the late Admiral at 9 a.m. on December 26.

U.S. Censors News

By Arrangement with the Asahi (Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

MADRID, December 25.—Upon the assassination of Admiral Jean Francois Darlan, Major-General Dwight Eisenhower, Commander-in-Chief of the United States forces in North Africa, immediately prohibited newspapers from reporting the incident throughout the country and as the result, the announcement of Darlan's assassination was delayed for more than 10 hours, it is reported from Tangier.

Meanwhile, the United States authorities are very strictly censoring the reports of the incident. The assassin is being examined by United States authorities, but his name and nationality as well as the progress of the examination are not yet officially announced.

Truth Unrevealed

By Arrangement with the Asahi (Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

SHANGHAI.—December 25.—The truth about the assassination of Admiral Jean Francois Darlan is not known chiefly because of the stringent censorship exercised by the American authorities over the press reports from the spot, according to information received here.

One thing noted in this connection is the confusion seen in the reports from the American and British sources.

One report received here from London said that tragic as the murder of Darlan was, the incident would serve as a fine factor to expedite the reconstruction of the French regime in North Africa.

It is believed that the De Gaullist regime in London will probably assume the administrative department of the puppet regime in North Africa, while the military affairs connected with it will be placed under General Henri Giraud, another French rebel.

U.S., Britain Shocked

Domei

LISBON, December 25.—Government circles both at London and Washington were greatly shocked upon learning of the assassination of Admiral Jean F. Darlan, it is reported here among competent observers.

According to Washington dispatches, the State Department there, upon receipt of the shocking report, simply announced that the American agreement with the French regime in North Africa is only of military nature.

Meantime, British governmental circles at London are said to have prohibited the press from publishing anything about the assassination till more details were given them.

Another Official Assassinated

Nichi Nichi

LISBON, December 24.—A certain high anti-Vichy official was assassinated at Oran, it is reported from Paris. His name is yet unknown but it is said that his assassination took place at about the same time when Admiral Jean F. Darlan was assassinated.

London Silent

Domei

STOCKHOLM, December 25.—The report of the assassination of Admiral Jean Francois Darlan has given a very serious shock to British political circles, but British governmental authorities are refraining from making any comment because of the gravity of the incident.

On Account of the Christmas holiday, London newspapers were not issued today and thus the tone of the British press on the question is not known.

It is said that because of Darlan's assassination, General Charles de Gaulles has decided to carry out his original plan to visit Washington.

De Gaulle to Visit U.S.

Domei

LISBON, December 25.—General Charles de Gaulles, French rebel and leader of the De Gaullists, has decided to visit Washington shortly, it is reported from London.

Spain Building More Ships

Domei

MADRID, December 25.—For increasing the number of merchant vessels, the Spanish Government has decided to construct 18 ships of various sizes with an appropriation of 318,000,000 pesos. These ships are to be constructed at Bilbao, Cadiz and Valencia.

Lehar Completes Opera

VIENNA.—A new opera has been completed by Franz Lehar at his home in Ischl. Lehar's new composition deals with the minstrels of the middle ages but the action takes place in the middle of last century.

Italians Win Boxing

STOCKHOLM.—The boxing card staged here between Swedish fighters and a visiting Italian team ended with an Italian victory, the visitors winning five out of eight bouts.

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MAJ.-GEN. FUJIMURA DIES

Held Post of Director of Research Institute of Army Fuel Depot

Major-General Fukujiro Fujimura, 49, Director of the Research Institute of the Army Fuel Depot, died on Wednesday at the Army Medical College Hospital.

The late Major-General Fujimura was born in Ehime Prefecture. In 1915 he was appointed sub-lieutenant. After graduating from the Engineering Department of the Tokyo Imperial University in 1922, he was successively appointed member of the Army Science Research Institute, secretary of the Fuel Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and resident officer in France. In 1941, he was promoted to Major-General.

The funeral service will be conducted according to Buddhist rites at the Aoyama Funeral Hall tomorrow from 1 to 2 p.m.

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TOJO, SHIMADA HONOR VISITOR FROM NANKING

Luncheon Party Held at Suikosha Attended by High Army, Navy Officers

WANG SPEAKS OVER JOAK

Expresses Gratitude to Japanese Government and People for Support

Wang Ching-wei, President of the National Government of China, who is now visiting Japan, was the guest of honor at a luncheon party given by the War and Navy Ministers at the Suikosha from 12:30 p.m. Friday.

Among other guests were Chou Fo-hai, Vice-President of the Executive Yuan and concurrently Minister of Finance, Chu Min-yi Foreign Minister, Lin Pai-sheng, Minister of Publicity; Chinese Ambassador Dr Hsu Liang; Japanese Ambassador Mamoru Shigemitsu, Sotaro Ishiwata, economic adviser to the Nanking Government, military advisers and other members of the Wang Mission. The sponsors of the luncheon were Prime Minister General Hideki Tojo, Navy Minister Admiral Shigetaro Shimada, General Gen Sugiyama, Chief of Army General Staff Admiral Osami Nagano, Chief of the Navy General Staff, and other high-ranking army and navy officers.

Photograph Is Taken

The assembly descended to the lawn for commemorative photographing with President Wang, Premier Tojo and Navy Minister Shimada in the center. On President Wang Ching-wei's morning coat lapel shone the purple supplementary decoration to the Grand Order of the Chrysanthemum. President Wang, in conversing with Prime Minister Tojo, Navy Minister Shimada and others was full of friendly smiles throughout the function. He admired the lawn of the Suikosha. "A splendid garden, isn't it?" he said.

Prime Minister Tojo and Navy Minister Shimada were among the speakers of the afternoon, emphasizing the ever-strengthening ties between China and Japan. President Wang made a speech in reply and the luncheon ended at 2:30 p.m.

From 4:30 p.m. President Wang gave a tea party to which had been invited Prime Minister Tojo, Kazuo Aoki, Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, Foreign Minister Masayuki Tani, other members of the Cabinet, German Ambassador Major-General Eugen Ott, Italian Ambassador Mario Indelli, Manchoukuo Ambassador Wang Yun-ching and other Axis envoys, Lieutenant-General Kisaburo Ando, Vice-President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, and other notables, totaling some 800 persons. The magnificent party ended at 6 p.m.

The expression of gratitude to the Japanese Government and people for their understanding and assistance of the National Government of China, China's best efforts to respond to Japan's guidance and the reference to the August Mind of His Majesty the Emperor as to the establishment of Greater East Asia were highlighted in a radio speech made by President Wang Ching-wei from the Greater East Asia Guest Hall in Azabu on Friday night. "To the Japanese People" was the subject of President Wang's radio speech, which lasted for about 25 minutes commencing 7:30 p.m.

"I was given a gracious treatment by the Imperial Family in June last year. In one and a half years following this, I have been accorded another honor, when I was received in audience by His Majesty the Emperor on December 22 and, to say with awe and trepidation, was questioned by His Imperial Majesty on the construction of Greater East Asia. It is with the heartfelt gratitude for me to say here that I have been given the most honorable decoration in the world by His Imperial Majesty. Moreover, I have been accorded numerous assistance by your Government authorities and people, for which I am deeply grateful.

Adopted a Resolution

"Immediately after information reached that Japan had declared war on America and Britain on December 8, the National Government of China adopted a resolution saying that it was ready to share in the joys and sorrows of Japan.

"Friendship between Japan and China has since increased day by day. China has now confined itself

(Continued on Page 2)

China's Leader Meets Military Chiefs

President Wang Ching-wei spent a profitable and pleasant few hours as the guest at a luncheon given jointly by Prime Minister General Hideki Tojo in his concurrent capacity as War Minister and Navy Minister Admiral Shigetaro Shimada at the Suikosha in Shiba at noon Friday. From left to right: General Gen Sugiyama, Chief of the Army General Staff, Admiral Osami Nagano, Chief of the Navy General Staff, Prime Minister Tojo, President Wang and Navy Minister Shimada.

DARLAN MURDERED BY A SUBORDINATE

Roosevelt Completely Upset by Unexpected Mishap to Ex-Ally

Admiral Jean Francois Darlan, chief of the puppet French Regime in North Africa, was assassinated by one of his subordinate officers on Thursday, it was revealed by a Lisbon dispatch to Domei on December 24. The puppet regime in North Africa, of which Admiral Darlan was the head, was established, it will be recalled, by Admiral Darlan and Major General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Commander of the United States forces in North Africa.

Another Lisbon dispatch says, according to a radio message from Algiers, Admiral Darlan while leaving the High Commissioner's Office, was killed by one of the officers under him. An Algiers radio message says about Admiral Darlan's assassination as follows:

"While he was entering the High Commissioner's Office at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Algiers time, a young man shot Admiral Darlan, who, as a result, was fatally wounded. The assassin was arrested on the spot. On the way of being carried to a nearby hospital, Admiral Darlan succumbed to the wound. The assassin is being vigorously examined."

Another Lisbon dispatch to Domei states, upon receipt of the news of the assassination of Admiral Darlan President Roosevelt, who was instrumental in causing General Eisenhower effecting underhand deals with Darlan and attempting to implant American influence in North Africa, is highly vexed with the report and is said to have told newspapermen that the assassination is an extremely cowardly act and that he hopes that the assassin be arrested and disposed of quickly."

Great Confusion

A great confusion prevails over the popular mind at Algiers at the sudden death of Admiral Darlan, says another Lisbon dispatch. Nothing has been made public as to the identity of the criminal, although the examination is still going on, while the Algiers Radio Station is broadcasting that perfect peace and order is maintained over Algiers.

Admiral Darlan thus died an ignoble death, according to Domei. He was 61 years old. The late Admiral Darlan was born in 1881. After entering the French navy in 1899 he later occupied many important posts, having been the commander-in-chief of the Rhine Fleet, comman-

(Continued on Page 2)

Roosevelt Can't Say 'Merry Christmas' To Citizens of U.S.

Domei

LISBON, December 24.—"I can't say 'Merry Christmas' to you when I think of the great number of our men who are desperately fighting on battle fronts all over the world on Christmas Day this year," was President Roosevelt's message to a crowd of citizens who gathered in front of the White House's south balcony on Christmas Eve, according to a Washington dispatch received here. A tight suppressed atmosphere prevailed over the American capital, and the only official function in the White House was a perfunctory ceremony for the presentation of a Christmas tree by citizens on this second Christmas Eve since the entry of the United States into the World War, stated the report.

BUDGET OF MANCHOUKUO GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL

28 Per Cent Increase Noted As Compared With Previous Year

Domei

HSINKING, December 24.—The general and special accounts of the Manchoukuo Government's budget for the fiscal year 1943-44, which passed the extraordinary meeting of the State Council on December 19, were officially approved by the Privy Council held today in the presence of His Majesty the Emperor of Manchoukuo, it was announced by the Information Bureau.

The revenue and expenditure under the general account are estimated at Yuan 1,055,000,000 each, showing a 28 per cent increase as compared with approximately Yuan 813,000,000 for the preceding fiscal year.

The total revenue under the special account is estimated at approximately Yuan 2,244,000,000 and expenditures at approximately Yuan 2,142,000,000, which show respective gains of approximately Yuan 490,000,000 and Yuan 484,000,000 over those for the preceding fiscal year.

Countess Kato Dies

Dowager Countess Haruji Kato, wife of the late Premier Count Takaakira Kato, died of stricture of the heart at her Mikawadai-machi-villa in Azabu-ku, on Thursday afternoon. She was 79 years old. Last rites will be held at the Aoyama Funeral Hall on Monday afternoon.

HONGKONG'S RISE CALLED INSPIRING

Regeneration as Asiatic City Is Significant, Says Governor-General

Domei

HONGKONG, December 24.—The fact that Hongkong has entered its first phase of regeneration as an Asiatic city since its emancipation from the shackles of Britain should be of great significance, and an inspiration to the peoples of East Asia said Lieutenant-General Rensuke Isogai, Governor-General of Hongkong in a statement facilitating the occasion of the first anniversary of the fall of Hongkong.

Needless to say, the Governor General pointed out, at the present time all projects for the regeneration of Hongkong are being carried out in accordance with the war as the first principal, to enable it to contribute directly and indirectly toward the successful prosecution of the war. As the second objective, however, plans are being formulated to develop Hongkong, in view of its important pivotal position, into a cultural, shipping trade and economic center of East Asia. Furthermore, considering the peculiar feature of the military administration of the territory, Hongkong should be made a model of national cooperation which will contribute toward the hastening of a general peace between Japan and China.

Recalling the achievements of the past year, Mr. Isogai pointed out that while British political, military, and economic interests in Hongkong have been completely wiped out, there still remains a vestige of respect for Anglo-American liberalism and materialism. The peoples of East Asia, he said, should realize the greet mission they have to fulfill as East Asians, and in order to fulfill this mission, they must get rid of their past attachment to materialism and return to the true spirit of the Orient, he added.

Although Hongkong's future is very promising in view of its unique position and facilities, a too optimistic view is not justfied until final victory in the preent war has been achieved, the Governor-General said. The people of Hongkong should be prepared to endure all hardships and privations in order to bring the present war to a successful conclusion, he added.

Meat Rations For Belgians

BRUSSELS.—The Belgian population will receive special Christmas meat rations, according to an announcement made here today.

GOOD PROGRESS SEEN IN TALKS BY JAPAN, F.I.C.

Negotiations on Plans to Carry Out Trade Agreement Move Forward Rapidly

YOSHIZAWA GIVES VIEWS

Nippon Ambassador Reveals He Will Return to Tokyo in Near Future

Domei

SAIGON, December 24.—In a press interview this evening, Kenkichi Yoshizawa, Japanese Ambassador to French Indo-China, disclosed that negotiations regarding concrete plans for the carrying out of the Japan-French Indo-China Trade Agreement next year and other subjects proposed by Mr. Yoshizawa at the conference held this morning between him and Vice-Admiral Jean Decoux have been conducted in a most friendly atmosphere.

The Japanese Ambassador declared as follows:

"Since my assumption of office I have had several interviews with Vice-Admiral Jean Decoux who is a well seasoned statesman. It is satisfying to see that the negotiations here have been carried on in a most friendly manner from beginning to end.

"As I stated quite some time ago, at the conference held on December 14, the economic and political relations between Japan and French Indo-China, including concrete plans to carry out the Japan-French Indo-China Trade Agreement, were discussed in a general way, but at the second conference negotiations took a concrete form.

"Time is not yet ripe for me to reveal the contents of the negotiations and how far they have progressed, but I can assure you that the conference is making satisfactory progress."

Mr. Yoshizawa disclosed that he would shortly leave French Indo-China for Tokyo, but he said he has nothing to worry about, even if the negotiations are not concluded before his departure, as there are a number of other capable men at the Japanese Ambassadorial Office.

The Japanese Ambassador also stressed that the relations between Japan and French Indo-China since the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia have been getting much closer and that it is clear that the satisfactory relations will be further promoted.

CENTRAL CHINA CONCERN STRUCTURE STRENGTHENED

Still Closer Cooperation Between Japan and China Anticipated

Domei

SHANGHAI, December 25.—Through increasing the number of shares of its affiliated concerns owned by Chinese share-holders, the structure of the Central China Development Corporation will be further strengthened, it was learned here today.

The move is expected to contribute greatly toward the healthy growth of the National Government of China as well as toward the development of Central China in accordance with the Government's policy. It is also expected to result in affecting still closer economic cooperation between Japan and China.

As the directing organ for economic activities in Central China, the corporation now controls 13 companies and supervises 10 other companies registered under enemy nationals in Central China.

EX-CHINESE ENVOY DIES

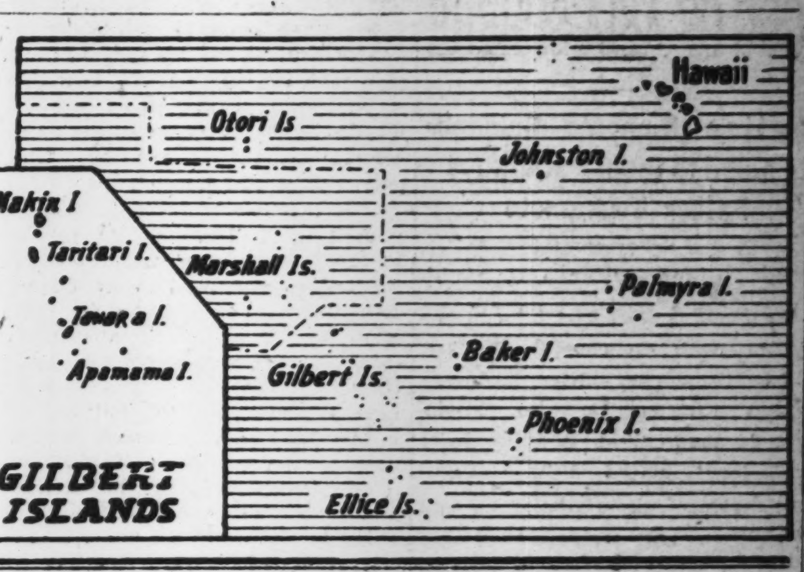
General Chiang Tso-pin Dies of Pneumonia

Domei

CANTON, December 25.—General Chiang Tso-pin, member of the Central Control Yuan of the Chungking Government and one time Chinese Ambassador to Japan, died of pneumonia yesterday afternoon; it was learned here today.

He was 59 years old and at the time of the Manchurian Incident served as Chinese Ambassador to Japan. He became Minister of the Interior before the outbreak of the China Affair. He was in retirement recently.

4 FLYING FORTRESSES SHOT DOWN AT OTORI BY NIPPON DEFENDERS



Enemy Attempt to Raid Mid-Pacific Isle Ends In Failure

OTHER PLANES FLEE

Over 10 Boeing B-17's Believed to Have Started From Midway Island

Four enemy "flying fortresses" were shot down by Japanese Forces guarding Otori Island, formerly Wake Island, on the night of December 23, according to an announcement of the Imperial Headquarters at 2 p.m. Friday. The announcement reads:

"Imperial Forces on Otori Island on the night of December 23 engaged more than 10 enemy aircraft of B-17 type, which raided from the direction of Midway Island and shot down four of them and repulsed the rest inflicting damages on six planes.

"Japanese losses and damages are one person killed, four wounded and four small fires caused. No other damages were done."

Enemy Offensive Fails

Continuing to hold to its hopes of carrying out a counter-offensive, the enemy has been fighting desperately for the last five months in the strategically important Solomons area, comments Domei. Although it has suffered terribly in every encounter the enemy has not given up its hopes and on the night of December 23, it raided Otori Island, 1,740 nautical miles from Tokyo. Between 10 and 20 Boeing B-17's took off from Midway and flew 1,100 miles to raid Japan's advance base in the middle of the Pacific.

Expecting that such an attack might be forthcoming, Japanese units on the island were ready and with the coming of the enemy immediately subjected it to a furious assault. Four Boeing B-17's lit the dark skies as they hurtled earthward in flames and six others burning fled away.

The enemy's 1,100-mile raid ended in a complete failure. That an attack by the enemy's best bombers was met without any hesitation and that it was immediately battered and repulsed shows the high morale of the men on guard of the Empire's easternmost outpost and the completeness of all preparations to meet any sort of attack.

In recent days the enemy has shown a tendency to attempting to counter-attack not only from the south but from all directions. America should remember that the Imperial Navy is completely prepared to meet and destroy the enemy anywhere anytime.

Gilbert Islands Are Important In Japan's Far-Flung Defenses

Interesting, Comprehensive 1,000-Mile Inspection Flight Aboard Navy Plane Over Archipelago Reveals Strategic Nature of Group

By YOSHIMITSU FUJITA and KENSUKE IIJIMA, Members of the Navy Press Corps

GILBERT ISLANDS.—The Imperial Naval Forces, within the short period of one year have secured all the important military bases west of 180th meridian and have thus established an impregnable position in the Pacific Ocean. In this connection, the important role played by the Gilbert Islands, which are the easternmost of Japan's occupied areas in the Pacific, can never be overestimated.

It is no exaggeration to say that the occupation of this archipelago strengthened the defense of the Marshall Islands and at the same time provided a superior base for further attacks on the American forces in the area between the Aleutians and the Solomons.

The following is a description of a flight aboard a Navy plane over the Gilbert Islands:

It was two o'clock in the morning, but night was already giving way to dawn. It was a beautiful moonlit night. Presently the crowing of roosters reminded us of the early mornings in our homeland. Not a stir was yet visible in the village. Walking through the bread tree groves, we boarded a certain plane. The Gilbert Islands are located 260 nautical miles southeast of the southernmost island of the Marshall group but the air in the skies was unexpectedly cool. Passing over Little Makin we flew southward and gradually the Makin Island came into sight, stretching east to west. By then night was completely taken over by a magnificent dawn; the eastern skies tinted in a gorgeous red hue. And oval shaped island appeared to float on the dark blue horizon. It was Abaiang Island. In the center of the island a church steeple could be seen towering high in a pure white color. The space back of the church was dotted with pleasant-looking buildings which were evidently the pastor's residence and a group of monasteries. Around those western-looking houses villagers' cottages thatched with coconut leaves clustered.

Tawara Is Sighted

After a few minutes flight we came upon Tawara, which was previously the site of the British colonial government office. It looked like a squatting monkey. During the British reign, the British Chief Administrator resided on this island and three administrators were stationed in Makin, Tawara and Beru Islands respectively. The Gilbert Islands were divided into three groups, namely, north, middle and south, and ruled by those three administrators. Till 1917, the Gilbert group was a protectorate, but in that same year it was completely subjugated by Britain as her colony. With that change of status, the British officials took over the administrative prerogative previously enjoyed by four native chieftains who ruled Makin, Abaiang, Tawara and Apamama respectively. Under the British administration the islands were actually controlled by 15 native village chiefs. They were invested with juridical as well as administrative power. On the first Monday of every month, the public court was opened for the benefit of the islanders. In order to carry out smoothly the self-government policy, every village was provided with a public meeting hall which was generally utilized for various kinds of gatherings. At present this self-government system is still in existance, but eventually in near future, new regulations in accordance with the Japanese administrative policy will be formed.

There were only some 80 British in the entire area of the Gilbert Islands, with the majority residing in the city of Tawara Island. The attitude of the British toward the native islanders was that of slave-drivers. Some 26,000 islanders were employed by the British in the copra industry which annually yielded 5,000 tons of copra. The annual copra output was worth 2,000,000 yen but the British bought it up at low rates and shipped them to other countries.

Climate Is Good

The climate of the islands is much drier than that of the Marshall Islands, but in spite of that aridity, the islands are free of endemic diseases. The climate being suitable for the Japanese, the copra industry and fishery can be greatly developed under proper guidance by the Japanese. In the northern sector of the town of Tawara, a long pier was seen jutting out into the sea, around which the government office, wireless station and the offices of the B. P. Company, which had monopolistic control over the transactions of copra with Australia and others, were built side by side. The town was also equipped with a neat-looking driveway running from east to west. On both sides of the same driveway, the simple houses of the native islanders were seen scattered here and there. Along the southern coast of Tawara Island the red roofs of the Central Hospital and the pastor's residence were sighted.

On the little island to the east of Tawara, a government school named 'The King George Fifth School' is built where the graduates of mission schools of other islands of the Gilbert group used to receive advanced education, mostly in English and in vocational training. Close to Tawara Island, another island in the shape of a square horse-shoe came into view. On the island, the government building stood out prominently among the some 100 cottages of the villagers. We were then informed that before the war three New Zealand soldiers had been stationed on the same island, but with the spread of war into that area, they were immediately taken prisoners.

For a short time we sighted nothing but water. Just when we had begun to feel drowsy, another island which was shaped like a gourd reached our sight. Nearly 500 persons are said to be dwelling there. Passing over a fan-shaped coral reef we finally reached the equator. The ocean looked tranquil.

Many Islands Spotted

After a while we came over an island on which palm trees grew sparsely, a condition rare in these parts. It looked like a rooster standing on its toes; around its belly there were sailing boats and there

(Continued on Page 2)

GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL TO SEE SLIGHT INCREASE

Cabinet Decides to Expand Number of Officials for 1943-44 by 2,388 Members

The Cabinet, at its regular session Thursday, formally decided to increase the regular personnel of the Government by 2,388 members for the fiscal year 1943-44, the Board of Information revealed.

After a series of deliberations the Cabinet came to a final decision yesterday to increase slightly the number of various Government officials although such additions will be held down to a minimum the announcement said. It was added that only 2,388 new applicants will be accepted in the coming year under the decree.

The announcement informed that originally an increase of well over 20,000 persons was proposed by various Government offices, but this was reduced by over 11,000 persons when the Cabinet ruled to recognize the expansion in personnel only where it was deemed necessary in the prosecution of the current war.

However, the new decree slightly will mitigate the curtailed staff recently effected in a move to simplify the Government's administrative system.

SPLIT IN CONGRESS WORRIES ROOSEVELT

Growing Opposition to Dictatorship Policy Reflected in Legislature

Nichi Nichi

LISBON, December 23.—The atmosphere in American political circles has become visibly tense since the Congressional elections of November.

At least three factors are at work making things extremely hot for the Roosevelt Administration.

First of all there is a growing opposition among the American people to the dictatorship of President Roosevelt.

Secondly, there is a rapid diminution in the influence of the persons who make up the Roosevelt Administration.

Thirdly, the Isolationists are making themselves more and more felt throughout the country.

Republicans Powerful

The old House of Representatives in which the Democrats controlled 257 seats against the Republicans' 165 came to an end on December 16. In the new House which will be convened on January 6 the Democrats will be in control of 221 against 211 for the Republicans.

In the Senate, the Democrats have lost 10 seats. Their present strength there is 56.

The Roosevelt Administration is said to be greatly worrying over the political situation. The mounting tension in the atmosphere in American political circles shows that the worries of the Roosevelt Administration are not without cause.

There is greater opposition in the Senate to the Atlantic Charter than is generally supposed. Senator Robert Taft is one of the bitterest opponents of the charter in the Senate. In a recent speech he said that the Atlantic Charter and the Non-Separate Peace Agreement represented policies of President Roosevelt's, and that they would not be binding to the American people in the least.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg, who spoke after Senator Taft, said that he wanted the whole world to be absolutely sure that the Non-Separate Peace Agreement was just the sort of thing Senator Taft had described it to be.

Under the provisions of the American Constitution any international agreement made by the President has to be ratified by the Congress.

Both the Atlantic Charter and the Non-Separate Peace Agreement are to be examined by the new Congress and from the present temper of the House and Senate there is no excluding the possibility of the documents failing to meet with the approval of the Congress when it meets next month.

Isolationists Oppose F.D.R.

As was to be expected, the Isolationists are in violent opposition to the Charter and Non-Separate Peace Agreement. It has been stressed by their foes that the Isolationists have ceased to be a force in American politics ever since the outbreak of the war. This is not the case.

There is a growing tendency among the American masses to come round to the view that the Lease-Lend law and aid to the British war effort, not Pearl Harbor, brought America into the war, a view which was developed by the Isolationists.

The Democrats as a whole are in favor of President Roosevelt's foreign policies. But it is doubtful whether they will go far in supporting them. One will not be surprised by a split developing any moment in the Democratic ranks over foreign policy questions.

The Republican Party is a house divided against itself. The group of Republicans led by Wendell Willkie is at loggerheads with the Isolationist element of the party. There is no doubt that the party is not in a position to make any important decision.

This trend of events in American political circles, naturally, is perplexing Britain. The London Observer has put it that what is happening in the American political world is exceedingly disheartening to Britain.

The rapid diminution in the prestige of the Roosevelt Administration among its people is partly explainable by the fact that the American masses are finding a difficulty in adjusting themselves to the conditions brought about by the change in the footing of the country from peace to wartime which was effected clumsily.

Price Policy Failure

The price policy of the Roosevelt Administration was evidently a failure. Leon Henderson came under the violent fire of the populace for his manner of handling the price control question, and President Roosevelt had to dismiss him.

Secretary of War Colonel Stimson is losing his popularity too with his country, as the American forces continue to suffer reverses. Against his will President Roosevelt will have to reshuffle the holders of responsible positions in his Administration if only to pacify the people.

It is hardly likely that the new Congress will turn down measures proposed by the Government as vital to the conduct of the war. But it is easy to see that there will be sufficient friction between the Administration and the Congress to justify one in thinking that the smooth enforcement of the Administration's war policies will be attended with considerable difficulties.

The Isolationists may be successful in amending Administration bills dealing with the conduct of the war. If they are, then the conclusion is inescapable that the way will have been paved for a break between America and Britain. Once ill blood is caused between America and Britain, their talk of their domination of the world will be at an end.

Commander Tanaka Gives Many Presents To Filipino Employes

Domei

MANILA, December 24.—Filipino employes who are now engaged in the Japanese Military Headquarters here today were deeply moved by the warmheartedness of Lieutenant-General Shizuichi Tanaka, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in the Philippines, when he gave a huge number of shirts, handkerchiefs and neckties to men and handkerchiefs, stockings and various necessities to women Filipinos as Christmas presents.

FILIPINOS BECOMING COG OF ASIA SPHERE

Realize Nippon's Guidance Leading to Right Path, Says Father Tsukamoto

"The Philippine Islands are rapidly becoming a typical Asia for the Asiatics under the careful guidance of the Nipponese Military Administration assisted by the whole-hearted cooperation of the local population," stated Father Shoji Tsukamoto, of the Catholic Church in Nippon, who returned to the capital on Tuesday after an absence of one year.

"During the first stages of the work of our party, whose duties were to broaden the Catholic faith and teach the real significance of the War of Greater East Asia, results were slow to be obtained, hampered by the past undermining propaganda carried on by the United States," said Father Tsukamoto, who is connected with the religious department of the Military Administration.

"When we first landed there," he continued, "the inhabitants still remembered the atrocious acts committed by the Americans when they took over the Philippines from Spain. Therefore, we were at first received in actual danger. But now the Filipinos have come to understand our mission and have quickly adhered themselves to our teachings.

"Just before I left there, the native inhabitants who consist chiefly of Catholic followers, were seen willingly donating things to be used in the churches, to the military administration.

"On Christmas eve, midnight mass has been allowed through the good offices of the Military Administration, to the joy and gratefulness of the Filipinos."

Luzon Railway Reopened

Domei

MANILA, December 24.—With completion of repair work on seven bridges damaged by the enemy forces, railway service in southern Luzon is scheduled to be reopened to traffic tomorrow, it was announced by the authorities concerned today.

Trial run was held yesterday. Resumption of rail traffic in southern Luzon will mean restoration of greater part of the railways in Luzon and the authorities concerned have disclosed that efforts are being pushed to put all main lines in operation by the end of March, 1945.

Experts who have inspected the repaired railway sections in southern Luzon are of the opinion that the repaired sections, particularly bridges, now are in better condition than in the past. The authorities concerned also have commended engineers for their excellent work which was completed earlier than scheduled despite various difficulties which have been overcome with the energetic cooperation of Filipino workers.

It is recalled that 11 railway tracks in Luzon were destroyed by retreating American forces in the course of Japanese operations. The repair operations were started in mid-September by Filipino workers under the direct supervision of 70 Japanese experts.

NANKING BOLSTERS MILITARY STRENGTH

China's Army to Make Rapid Strides Toward Playing Its Share in War

Domei

NANKING, December 24.—With all indications that the close collaboration, both materially and spiritually manifested between Japan and the National Government of China since the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, will be intensified, much importance is attached to the Nanking Government's movement to strengthen its military power.

The military and naval departments, which were formerly under the jurisdiction of the Executive Yuan, have been placed under the supervision of the Military Commission with President Wang Ching-wei as chairman. Under this new setup, the district military corps under the central military organ are being reorganized and trained.

It is believed that the Nanking government's basic policy relating to the perfection of military organization hereafter will consist of mass replenishment of arms; augmentation of picked troops; strengthening of local police forces; increase of pay to soldiers; infusion of military spirit; firm establishment of military administration and founding of the basis for military expenditures.

The replenishment of military arms and supplies which will enable the Nanking military to give full play to its actual strength will be pushed with speed and dispatch. On the other hand, the military administration is expected to enforce a drastic readjustment of its personnel by eliminating the old military clique and organizing new picked units befitting the new China. In this connection, it is expected that wages to the soldiers will, as a matter of course, be adjusted as the reorganized military comes into being.

New Military Spirit

With the military organization centered around the Nanking Government, it is believed that a new army will come into existence infused with proper military spirit.

Since the preservation of local peace and order is one of the important problems for the Nanking Government, it necessarily follows that the strengthening of local police forces becomes a vital matter.

It is expected that the personnel of the local armed police and peace preservation forces will be increased, while the units which are replaced will be re-trained and used in the maintenance of peace and order. Thus it appears that the peace zone will not only be strengthened but expanded.

With the establishment of the military administration and the building up of the basis for the military expenditures it is expected that the Nanking Government's Army will make rapid strides toward fulfilling its share in the prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia.

SUGAR AGENCY ORGANIZED

New Association Will Rationalize Distribution Within Japan

To rationalize the distribution of sugar within Japan, the Nippon Sugar Wholesalers' Commercial Association, was organized Thursday with a ceremony held at the Togyo Kaikan in Marunouchi.

The new association, which was created through the amalgamation of sugar wholesalers' associations in five sugar distribution districts in Japan, namely, Eastern Japan, Western Japan, Central Japan, Kansai and Hokkaido, is capitalized at ¥15,000,000.

Japanese Spirit Causes Surprise in South; Malai Mail Recalls Perplexity of British

By Arrangement with the Asahi
(Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

KUALA LUMPUR, December 22.—The amazing readiness with which a Japanese sacrifices his life for the service of his country, has become a source of wonderment to the people of the Southern Regions. The Americans and British, who are of Jewish heritage, cou'd not comprehend the spirit of the Japanese people. It is but natural to expect that for the simple native inhabitants, the Japanese spirit is something beyond their power of comprehension.

The English language paper, Malai Mail, published in Kuala Lumpur, contained in its special edition a very interesting article entitled, "Heroism in the War of Greater East Asia" wherein very illuminating comments were made, quoted in part as follows:

"At the offset of the War of Greater East Asia, the enemy nations, at their wits end to explain the consecutive and disastrous defeats, concocted the excuse that the successes of the Japanese Forces were due to the use of secret weapons. The situation is exactly so, but the alleged secret weapons are not the scientific weapons brought into action on the European front. It is a weapon that cannot be imitated nor produced by any other nation in the world. The secret weapon responsible for the great victories of the Japanese Forces is nothing more than the Japanese spirit inherent in the hearts of all Japanese, imbuing in them the conception that their lives belong solely to His Majesty the Emperor and the nation."

Thus lauding the spirit of the Japanese people, the article went on to cite the incident of the Hongkong campaign in which Japanese soldiers swam to their objective. It quoted also the courageous action of the men who swam across the Johore Straits in the Malay campaign, through water thickly coated with crude oil strewn by the British.

"The British thought to check in this manner the advance of the Japanese Forces, but the sight that greeted them next morning was black-oil-smeared figures of the Japanese Forces who had already made their landing." the Malai Mail commented forcefully thus disclosing the perplexed situation in the British camp at that time.

GERMAN LINES HOLD IN SOVIET SECTORS

All Counter-Attacks Repulsed By Axis Forces During Winter Campaign

Domei

BERLIN, December 23.—The counter-offensive operations launched by the Soviet forces in various sectors in the Eastern Front have invariably turned out to be abortive and the German line of winter siege remains secure.

On December 22, the Soviet forces, crossing the frozen Volga River, launched an attack on the German positions in the Stalingrad sector but were forced to retreat after suffering severe damages.

The German engineers, employing flame-throwers, caused fire to break out in enemy positions in the factory zone in Stalingrad.

In the sector between the Volga and Don Rivers, the Soviet forces carried out repeated attacks under the protection of tank units but were forced to retreat before the concentrated firing by the Germans.

In a region north of the Terek River, the Reich tank units launched a ferocious counter-attack and enlarged their area of occupation. Several hundred Soviets were taken prisoners in the battle.

Ready for Winter

BERLIN.—A comprehensive program has been mapped out by the German railway system to meet the stress of a rigorous winter.

The early and hard winter last year made it extremely difficult to provide supplies for the German forces fighting at the Eastern Front.

The railway officials and technicians have since then profited by that hard experience and this time all preparations have been made to meet another emergency.

Strong and warm blockhouses have been built in the occupied eastern territories to house railway men and material.

Mighty snow ploughs and special groups of men for clearing away the snow and ice have been made available for this winter.

Repair shops for rolling-stock have also been erected while locomotives are well protected and insulated against the intense cold in the interior of the occupied eastern territories.

A flawless service on the railways in Germany and in the occupied eastern territories may therefore be expected during the coming winter season and this will in turn assure the troops of a regular supply of all kinds of material, weapons and foodstuffs which are necessary for the modern conduct of the war.

Darlan Murdered By A Subordinate

(Continued From Page 1)

der-in-chief of the Second Fleet, Chief of the French Navy General Staff, etc. When the truth pact was signed between France and Germany, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the French army, and air forces. It was in August 1941, that he was named as successor to Marshal Henri Philippe Petain as Chief of State of France.

Shortly before the invasion of French territory in North Africa on November 7, Admiral Darlan visited Algiers on the ground of inquiring after his son, who is laid up there of infantile paralysis, and secretly joined hands with Major-General Eisenhower, betraying his mother country. Against the orders of Marshal Petain to resist the invaders, Admiral Darlan concluded a truce pact with Eisenhower on November 8 and another pact with the commander of the invading forces for the transfer of French warships on the following day. Later, Admiral Darlan was named head of the puppet French regime founded by Eisenhower under instructions and backing of Roosevelt.

Marshal Petain, highly indignant at Darlan's betrayal, deprived him of his nationality and all his public and military posts on November 27. Admiral Darlan's sudden death has given a serious blow to Roosevelt's political designs and this in turn is believed to worsen the shakeup and schism among the enemy countries, Domei reports.

Information Board Shifts

The Cabinet on Thursday announced the appointment of Masatsune Hashimoto, director of the fourth division of the Board of Information, as director of the fifth division, concurrently. Mr. Hashimoto has succeeded Ryuzo Kawazura, who resigned.

Javanese Youths Parade

Through the streets of Djakarta marched the stalwart Indonesian youths on the occasion of the first anniversary of the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, each step ringing with their determination to fight for the creation of the Co-Prosperity Sphere. The above photo shows this heartening Javanese goodwill.

TOJO AND SHIMADA SPONSOR LUNCHEON

(Continued From Page 1)

firmly about the success of the work of constructing the new order of East Asia grounded on righteousness which is proposed by Japan.

"The National Government of China launched the New People's Movement by way of assisting Japan in the conduct of the War of Greater East Asia. The emancipation of the people of China depends entirely on victory in the War of Greater East Asia.

"In order for China to be in a position to cooperate positively with Japan in the conduct of the war, the National Government has made arrangements under which all the officers of the Chinese Army are being retrained and all youths of China, excepting students, are put to special training. It is a fact that the people under the jurisdiction of the National Government have acquainted themse'ves closely with the meaning of cooperating in the conduct of the War of Greater East Asia.

"I exceedingly deplore the attitude of Chungking. The Chungking leaders have yet to awaken to the situation. Following the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, they joined the camp of America and Britain. In league with America and Britain, they are trying to restrain Japan in the prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia.

"And it looks with hate upon the National Government's determination to cooperate in the War of Greater East Asia and attempts to obstruct and destroy our plans for betterment. In the last year the officers and men of the Imperial Forces have brought an infinite glory upon themselves. I am deeply impressed by the fact that the people of Nippon in wartime are doing their given duty and giving their best. I have seen with my own eyes that everything is being pushed forward to assure complete victory.

"I believe that next year is the year in which Nippon will build upon the brilliant war results already attained and lead the war to complete victory. Until now China has contributed little in cooperation to Nippon in the war but the mobilization of spirit and the military and economic adjustments were concentrated on cooperation in the war.

"Spiritually we are trying to bring about a condition wherein the two nations love each other and work together for the security of East Asia. In recent days we have gone a step further and are working for an interflow of ideas so that the people of Greater East Asia can be united and work together for East Asiatic Co-Prosperity.

"Militarily we would like to take over the work behind the lines and share the difficulties of the front lines. Economically we want to share the expenses of the war and help by expanding production, controlling distribution and reducing consumption. In other words the Government and people of China are determined to cooperate with Nippon. I believe firmly that if the peoples of East Asia unite and work together the War of Greater East Asia will end in complete victory and the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere will be successfully established."

Invites 200 Students

President Wang, marked the sixth day of his stay in Japan by inviting the 200 Chinese students dispatched for study in this country by the National Government to the Chinese Embassy at 9 a.m.

The President addressed words of encouragement to the visiting students after outlining to them their duties within the Greater East Asia Sphere

After listening to the speech, the students shouted Banzai for the leader of their country.

The visit of President Wang and his suite at a time when this country is observing the first anniversary of the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia with added determination to fight until a final victory is won must be considered deeply significant, declared Foreign Minister Masayuki Tani, during the course of his speech at a dinner party given in honor of the Chinese leaders at the official residence of the Foreign Minister Thursday evening.

The substance of the Foreign Minister's address follows:

"Four eventful years have passed since President Wang escaped from Chungking, and full two years have elapsed since the Basic Agreement was signed between the two countries. But despite the fact that during this period, the situation, both internally and externally, has been rather trying. President Wang exercised his utmost efforts in disposing of various affairs. This is indeed a source of deep felicitation and respect.

"In May this year, he sent Foreign Minister Chu Min-yi and a number of other prominent persons to Japan to confer with the Japanese leaders on bringing about a still closer relationship between Japan and China.

"In return the Japanese Government sent a mission headed by Baron Kiichiro Hiranuma to further strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries.

"In looking back over the past relations between China and Japan, I can quite appreciate that it was not only a temporary tie but, as clarified in the Basic Agreement, cooperation between our country and China has had a special characteristic in that the common object was to establish a New Order in East Asia based on moral principles.

"The Chinese Government issued a statement that it is prepared to share joys and sorrows with the Japanese Empire. This reveals that cooperation between Japan and China will be cemented closer and closer as the difficulties and hardship mount in the future and this manifests the spiritual consolidation of the two countries.

"The Japanese nation today ushers in the first anniversary of the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia with a firmer determination to fight until final victory is won. The visit of President Wang and his suite at a time like this must be considered of deep significance indeed."

Solemn Rites Held At Imperial Palace For Emperor Taisho

Solemn rites were held at the Koreiden in the Imperial Palace Friday morning to mark the 16th anniversary of the demise of the Emperor Taisho, the 123rd Sovereign of Japan and Father of His Majesty the Emperor. Prince Kinteru Sanjo, Chief Court Ritualist, respectfully worshipped at the Koreiden as Proxy of His Majesty the Emperor. The ceremony was attended by Her Majesty the Empress Dowager, and Her Imperial Highness Princess Chichibu, Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamatsu, and other Princes and Princesses of the Blood, as well as Prime Minister Hideki Tojo and other distinguished civil and military functionaries. Meanwhile, rites were held for the August Spirit of the Emperor Taisho also at the Tama Mausoleum with an Imperial messenger attending. Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Mikasa visited the Mausoleum.

29 Die in U.S. Asylum

LISBON.—Twenty-nine persons died in a state hospital in Oregon, in the ward for insane persons, after eating rotten eggs, according to reports from New York. Four hundred other patients were more or less ill after eating these eggs.

GILBERT ISLANDS SEEN BY SCRIBES

(Continued From Page 1)

were houses scattered all over the island.

On another island there were only a few inhabitants and a thick growth covered the island. The British government had planted the trees there. We then passed over an island which looked like an ear, and another round-shaped one over which a terrific squall hit us and we had to fly close to the surface of the sea.

We then came over the island at the extreme south of the group and skimming the tops of the palm turned northward. This island lies 400 nautical miles from the northern most island but even here on this isolated island the Rising Sun flag was flying and we could see the happy native inhabitants welcoming our stormy-day visit.

After flying northward for some hours we reached Beru. This island is the center of the islands in the southern part of the Gilberts and it is said to have had excellent facilities for communications.

Another island lay hazily near the horizon in a straight white line. Crossing the equator and flying northward for a while we finally reached Apamama, lying beautifully under clear skies. In the southern end of the island there were two houses and in the center of the island facing the bay were a pier and the government headquarters. Thus we completed our 1,000 nautical mile flying trip.

The native inhabitants of the sixteen islands in this group believe in an old legend which states that when a continent sank under the sea 47,000 years ago and the Gilberts were created, the superior ancestors of the present inhabitants crossed the seas and went to Nippon. They are rising today for the land of their ancestors, for Nippon. Not only are the islands important from a strategic point of view, but its future is also extremely bright, with the development of its fishing industry and its production of copra.

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WEEKEND FEATURES HEAVY SPORTS BILL

Waseda 11 to Take on Combined Nisei, Y.C.A.C. Team In Football Match

A heavy sports schedule will be held over the Christmas week-end at the Yokohama Country and Athletic Club with soccer, hockey, tennis and gaikyu football games being listed to be played off.

On Saturday afternoon the club's soccer team will meet the All-Sanchu eleven from 3 p.m. sharp, while on Sunday morning at 11 the German hockey eleven is booked to play the strong Waseda team. Also at the same time the ladies' singles finals of the Y.C. and A.C. will be played off on No. 1 court between Miss Prohaska and Mrs. Brigel.

From 1:30 in the afternoon the German boys team will stage a practice match, while the much heralded American football game between Waseda University and the combined Nisei and Y.C. and A.C. players will take place from 2:30 p.m. Also in the afternoon the mens' singles handicap finals will be played off between A. Boixo and E. DaSilva from 2 p.m.

Saturday's soccer game will find a much improved Club eleven in their third straight attempt to score a victory over the All-Sanchu side. In the two previous encounters the Clubmen lost by the scores of 6 to 3 and 5 to 3, but a closer game is expected on Saturday.

The Sunday morning hockey game between the German and Waseda teams will also be a hardfought affair as both teams have brilliant records to date. The Germans, who have won all their games up to the present, will field their full team and is expected by hockey fans to emerge victors by a close margin.

The ladies' singles match between Mrs. Brigel and Miss Prohaska finds the former strongly favored the take the title. The latter, however, has been playing well of late and together with the heavy handicap she is receiving, an upset may occur.

Strong Elevens Clash

The well-balanced Waseda pigskin-toters will appear on the field as favorites to take the combined Nisei and Club American football team into camp but an interesting game is expected to result. The home team boasts of such stars as Bucky Harriss, Schoene and Swanson, all of them who saw action in the first American football played in Japan nearly a decade ago. Their line will outweigh their opponents by at least 20 pounds with such stalwarts as Weiss, Schoene and Fehlen in it. Their team will also be strengthened considerably with the inclusion of prominent Nisei players, who held Waseda to a lone touchdown last week.

The hard-running Fukuda, the diminutive but crafty Shima, Hanaoka, one of the best centers in Japan, and several others are expected to bolster the Club attack. The visitors no doubt will pin their hopes on the powerful play of Narumi, who is one of the best triple-threats in intercollegiate circles today.

Taken on the whole, a highly entertaining afternoon will be enjoyed by the numerous fans who are expected to attend the game. The men's singles handicap between Boixo and DaSilva finds the former expected to walk away with top honors. DaSilva, who is playing his best game this season, will undoubtedly offer strong resistance and tennis fans are assured of a close and keenly fought out match.

SEVERE HARDSHIPS HIT PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

Half of Population Unemployed, School Children Underfed, Says U.S. Magazine

BUENOS AIRES.—Great distress prevails in Puerto Rico in consequence of the war, according to the New York periodical Time, which states that more than half of the whole able-bodied population of the island is unemployed.

The United States authorities in Puerto Rico are said to estimate that 200,000 of the 220,000 school children in the island are underfed.

The streets of the city of San Juan are filled with beggars. Neither rice nor beans can be obtained, while the price of meat is prohibitive. Not even quinine is available, despite its vital importance for the inhabitants of a tropical country.

The magazine states that the United States authorities intend to increase the tonnage available for the shipment of goods to Puerto Rico from 180,000 to 205,000, but even the latter figure represents only a fourth of the amount required.

The journal alleges that extraordinary errors in organization have been committed. For instance, the American organization for the sale of agricultural products is said to have sent 300,000 sacks of sugar to Puerto Rico, where over 400,000 tons of that commodity is awaiting an opportunity for export.

Wang Feted By Tani and Aoki

President Wang Ching-wei of the National Government of China and his suite of 11 high Chinese officials were the guests of honor at a banquet tendered Thursday evening at the Foreign Minister's official residence under the joint auspices of Foreign Minister Masayuki Tani and Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs Kazuo Aoki. From right to left, front row: Foreign Minister Tani, President Wang and Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs Aoki.

COMMUNISTIC SWAY DEAD IN NORTH CHINA

Japanese Pushing Development Work—Chungking Regime Completely Isolated

With the rapid reconstruction work in North China, Chinese Communist power and influence in the northern areas has become exceedingly negligible. In view of the important part to be played by North China in the successful prosecution of the current war, Japan is not only exerting her utmost for the preservation of peace and order, but proper measures for the development of the northern areas are being speedily carried on.

The Chungking regime is now placed in an isolated position despite its vain bluff of keeping up a forceful resistance against the Japanese Forces. The Communist army is also losing its power rapidly, due to the formidable and successful attacks launched by the Imperial Forces. Since the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, the Chungking regime was greatly weakened as the regular army was continuously dealt a devastating blow by the Japanese Army. In addition, the powerful attacks on the front districts of Chahar, the military base of the Communist army, successfully brought about the decline of the Communists.

Disorder Breaks Out

As a result a serious disorder broke out in the Communist army which necessitated a reorganization of its internal organs by a re-election of committee members. On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the China Affair, on July 7, the central committee of the Chinese Communists, published the following two issues, namely, first, "Statement on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the anti-Japanese action," and second, "Memorandum to the Communists in the anti-Japan resistance base and to the military officers of the 8th Route Army and the New Fourth Army."

Thus the Communist committee members ordered their colleagues to re-confirm the joint action of the Chungking regime and the Communist army and also to launch a great political operation for the two months. In accordance with these issues, the Communist army in various areas postponed its armed offensive for the time being and concentrated its power on the development of political operations.

They caused internal trouble in the armed forces as they instigated the public not to obey the conscription regulation, or to participate in the campaign of collecting scrap iron and steel and in the construction of highways and ditches. They also encouraged a disobedience movement against the Japanese Army.

However, contrary to their expectations they met with a firm rebuff and again had to resort to the former strategy of "armed operation." On September 5, Communist headquarters of the northern regions definitely declared, to the political and military organs of the Communist Party, their intention of resorting to a guerrilla strategy. No great action has been staged yet but when this Communists' action is viewed, it is obvious that they are scheming to defend and camouflage their weakening power.

To Crush Communism

It is important to watch what activities the Communists in North China will carry out. The Communist army must be totally crushed, in order to give full play to North China in building up an industrial base of Greater East Asia. With this purpose the Imperial Forces in North China have launched countless attacks against the Communist army in the Chahar district and have successfully manifested the mighty power of the Japanese Army.

The Chinese Communists, fearing the exhaustion of their fighting power, have desperately tried to launch a political offensive. The Japanese Army, in order to cope with this situation, have focussed their energies on the solidification and enlargement of the peace zone, which measured some hundred square kilometers in area on October 1, which is two or three times the area occupied in spring.

Furthermore, since the middle of September the Army Corps in the various districts and special service organizations have undertaken the construction of "model Communist destruction regions." About 10 villages in each province are designated as bases from which the Japanese Army will operate to shut out the Communists in the outer regions.

Through close collaboration with the Chinese administrative organizations such as the Hsinmin Society and other cooperative societies the Communists will be mopped up internally. After the central Communist organization has been completely annihilated, hindrance trenches will be constructed to prevent the encroachments of the Communist army. There will also be individual as well as mobilized training of the villagers for speedy connections in regard to secret information and for the perfection of emergency mobilization.

Model Region Set Up

By undertaking the distribution of seeds, loaning of agricultural tools and control of cereals, efforts are being made to shut out completely the flow of foodstuffs into the enemy territory. Already two-thirds of the proposed area has been completed as a model region, with further enlargements expected during the second and third periods. In this manner these regions will serve as iron walls for shutting out the Communist army.

The hindrance trenches constructed by the people along the railways and for protection of the villages aggregate in all a length equal to one-fourth the earth's circumference (six times the length of the Great Outer Walls from Shanhaikwan past Kalgan to Ninghsia). Completely stripped of their power of counter-attack by means of arms through the determined efforts of the people, the only road of operation left for the Communists had been through underground activities, but this also has been blockaded with the complete stoppage of agricultural and other products into the Communist regions. Thus Communism has been gradually obliterated from North China.

Under these circumstances, the fifth movement for the strengthening of peace was simultaneously started on October 8, the Imperial Rescript Observance Day, with the objective of stable construction of North China, destruction of Communism and attainment of peace by the hearty cooperation of all the organizations, the Japanese and Chinese army, government officials and civilians in North China.

The Imperial Forces have started their fight to destroy Communism in Shansi and Shantung and to consummate the movement for the strengthening of peace. Together with the measures to maintain low commodity prices in effect since June and economic blockade of Chinese Communists, this great offensive against Communism has mobilized North China's military, political, economic and cultural strength.

Reds on Retreat

Forced to forego their recapture of North China let alone activities along the frontiers, the Chinese Communists are now retreating step by step from North China.

The remains of the Chungking army in the various parts of North China, are losing their fighting spirit in face of the strong offensive of the Japanese Army. With connections cut off with the rest, they are quarreling among themselves for bases as well as food and arms.

The case of General Yu Hsueh-chung, who fled in North China under the fire of Japanese guns to save his life, amply testifies to the diminution of their fighting strength. The defeated Chungking army in Hunan are in a similar predicament. The headquarters of the First District commanded by General Chiang Ting-wen and the military facilities in and around Loyang were destroyed in an air raid on October 8. Under the vigorous offensive of the Japanese Forces, the Chinese Communist army are in a panic-stricken condition. The attainment of peace in North China is being gradually realized through such positive endeavors.

NIPPONESE WOMEN IMPRESS ANNAMESE

Madam Chen Wen-chang Replies Freely to Question Put by Tama Morita

"I have been longing for a long time to see Japan," said Madam Chen Wen-chang, wife of an Annamese lawyer in an enlightened reply given to Tama Morita, a noted woman writer here. She said she was struck particularly with the gentle and obedient behavior of Japanese women, which she so much praised in the course of her reply. Madam Chen was recently requested to comment freely on Japan and the Japanese by Tama Morita, according to the Nichi Nichi dispatch from Hanoi.

Continuing her reply, she said she was about eight years old when an Annamese woman who was staying with their family often talked to her about Japan. Having lived for some 10 consecutive years in Japan, that lady had many interesting things to say about Japan. Though Madam Chen was not able, at that time, to understand everything said by the lady, the accounts however captured her mind, so much so she very much desired to see Japan, one day. It became her dreamland.

Japan Came Near

After the outbreak of the China Affair, and later the War of Greater East Asia, Japan became so well-known, and all in Indo-China felt it so near, that she ceased to feel it a land of dreams any more. In short, it became a reality. A great number of Japanese people came to Hanoi and stores were packed with Japanese goods. What more, French Indo-China itself began to be defended by the Japanese Forces over the air, on land and sea. The more she became acquainted with the Japanese the deeper her respect and interest for them grew. Her longing for Japan was much more intensified through the admiration for the high discipline which every Japanese soldier displayed, and the kindness and consideration which were commonly shown by every Japanese. "I am much impressed by the fact that the Japanese are keeping up their traditional virtues, and are gallant enough to absorb more from outside if they should find them suitable," Madam Chen Wen-chang added.

Among many virtues she had to mention about the women of Japan, she pointed out their gentleness and modesty as main attributes to their qualities. "We cannot but pay our deepest respect to their spirit of sacrifice. It is no exaggeration to say that in no other country in the world we can witness such fathomless loyalty to their country, and devotion to their children, as possessed by Japanese women."

She then dealt with her impressions on Japanese films. She had recently seen "Sakura no Kuni" (Land of Cherry-Blossoms), on the story part of which she was in a position to comment. She said, "In that picture a young man and a girl love each other, but both being too shy and reserved to confess the fact to each other, the story comes to an end without either telling the other about their hearts. That kind of reservedness and modesty are purely of Asiatic nature". She throught that the Annamese were able to understand well all those Asiatic characteristics.

Japan's Influence Spreads

In conclusion Madam Chen Wen-chang stressed the importance of realizing mutual understanding between the Japanese and the Annamese, and remarked, "The influence of Japan has spread far and wide over Greater East Asia. According to the ancient history of Annam, there existed friendly relations between the two countries even then. Now, with the exchange of respective cultures between the two countries, there is more scope for strengthening the asiatic traits in the Annamese. We are hoping to understand Japan and the Japanese more fully and deeply, and at the same time hope that the Japanese will know us better."

Defending her sisters of Annam regarding what she called "their obstinancy" about their clothes, Madam Chen Wen-chang said young women differed a great deal from the older ones in their way of thinking, but they would not give up their traditional Annamese clothes. As, in her opinion, all women, no matter of what nationalities they are, look best in their national clothes, she was glad that Annamese women are stubbornly keeping to their own national clothes. "When Japanese people think of us, I hope they will remember that Annamese women are obstinate in some things," she added.

Madam Chen Wen-chang was born in Hue, the capital of Annam, and bears relationship to King Bao Tai as a cousin. Her husband Mr. Chen Wen-chang is a well-known lawyer. Madam Chen is said to be devoting some of her morning time for the study of Japanese.

TUNIS IS IMPORTANT AS STRATEGIC POINT

Dominates Traffic Between Gibraltar and Suez—France Builds Naval Port

TUNIS.—In Tunis, at the narrow west part of the whole Mediterranean, there is a decisive point for domination of the sea traffic between Gibraltar and the Suez Canal.

Here, France built her greatest naval port at Bizerta, which possesses an excellent and modern submarine base, big arsenals and an airport.

The inland lake of Sidi Abdallah with large subterranean depots on its shores as well as the strong land fortifications which were lately considerably strengthened have become a formidable bulwark against any attack on the harbor from the direction of the hinterland.

For the defense of this region toward the southeast, the French have also built some kind of Maginot line which is effectively strengthened by a natural second line of defense formed by the salt lakes, Charsa Jerid, and Fehjeh.

The head of the State since 1929 has been Bey Sidi Ahmed II, who is already 80.

The country is governed by a great Council of two chambers, one purely French and one purely native. The Ministerial Council has six native Ministers and six French directors.

Tunis has been a French Protectorate since 1861 and her history is characterized in general by the contrasts existing between Italy and France.

Italy's agreement with Pierre Laval in 1935 greatly reduced Italy's claim to Tunis because France thereby gave Italy a free hand in Ethiopia. But since France participated in the sanctions against Italy, Rome saw itself confronted with a new situation and regarded past diplomatic development as antiquated.

During the 80 years of her rule, France had sent only civil servants, soldiers, industrialists, engineers and expert workmen to Tunis, while large masses of settlers and laborers came from Italy and left their mark on the country.

Capital investments on a large scale were lacking and Tunis to a large extent is, therefore, still unexplored especially as regards iron, manganese, lead, zinc and copper ores. The only exploitation of some importance is that of phosphates.

One of the main sources of income of Tunis is from wine growing but more than two-thirds of the cultivable land of 15,000,000 acres has never been under cultivation.

Another asset of the country consists of 2,500,000 sheep, 1,700,000 goats and 500,000 heads of cattle whose numbers, however, could easily be increased.

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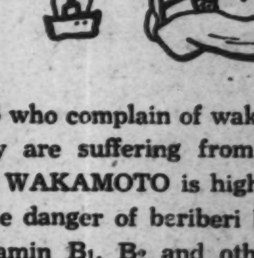

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Translated by Tsuneo Tomonaga
From Eiji Yoshikawa's 'Chushingura'

Chapter 37

The Taste of Smartweed

The first panic that had seized the townsmen, immediately after the arrival of the first relay of messengers from Yedo, had disappeared into the maws of that strange financial boom which swept over the castle-town of Ako concurrent with the coming of those strangers from the Eastern provinces, and within a single week they were so busy making money hand over fist that they seemed to have forgotten the calamity that had befallen the clan. They lived for money, and this sudden prosperity only added fuel to their zest for living.

In contrast, the samurai of the clan were sunk deep in the mire of despair. Their quarters were wrapped in a mantle of silence, and nobody showed himself out of doors except on duty. The townsmen hardly saw any samurai, but when they did, they would heave a sigh of relief and thank the heavens that they had not been born as samurai.

Two further relays of messengers came from Yedo before the 25th, but they only brought information that Daigaku Asano, Lord Asano's brother, had been sentenced to domiciliary confinement, and that the clan's mansion in Yedo had been confiscated. The anxiously waiting samurai did not even receive a summons to the Castle.

Those whose turn of duties had come round were kept extremely busy, but those who had nothing to do stayed behind doors, spending most of their time huddled up before the memorial tablet of their late lord.

The Miyoshi branch of the Asano clan and the Hiroshima Asanos had forbidden all forms of gaiety within their own precincts.. It goes without saying, therefore, that the samurai at Ako placed strict restrictions on themselves, and dared not even hum or whistle a bar of music, let alone indulge in any form of gaiety. It seemed to the townsmen that the very nature of noise had changed where the samurai were concerned, and that their hearts too had changed with it.

The farmers had their work to do; so had townsmen. They had nothing to worry about, now that they were financially secure. The greatest stress, the severest worries, fell on the samurai of the clan. The sudden calamity had thrust them into the fiery furnace of fate to test the calibre of their steel.

The backbone of society, the framework of government, did not lie with the Shogun's family or with the lords of the country, but was formed by the numerous samurai receiving small stipends throughout the country. It was these samurai, with the spirit of Bushido running through their veins, that had the faith and respect of the multitude. The samurai formed the highest stratum of ordinary society, the merchants and townsmen the lowest; thus it was not unnatural for the latter's respect for the former to be tinged with envy. If, therefore, the samurai forgot their usual fortitude and self-control, if their Bushido was cast to the winds in this time of duress, there were not a few among the multitude who were prepared to indulge in mocking laughter at their expense.

While the world of men was being rocked by such conflicting tremors, the world of nature was Peace itself as the early summer sun bathed the countryside in brilliant sunshine, and the warm, benevolent breezes caressed the ripening ears of rice and the yellow rape-blossoms that carpeted the fields. Late peach blossoms bloomed uncared for between the rice-fields, and the insects on the stalks of grass buzzed contentedly as they let the sunshine percolate through their backs. The countryside of Ako was particularly beautiful that year.

The river that flowed down from the Uneyama mountains and passed the lower section of the castle town, divided into several branches which wove through the cultivated fields before plunging into the sea.

Two boys were walking on the bank of one these natural canals. They were Chikara Oishi and his brother Kichi-chiyo. Chikara was fourteen, and he was leading the eleven year-old Kichi-chiyo by the hand. Kichi-chiyo's hands were both covered with black mud, and he clutched something in a straw-wrapper to his chest.

"Throw it away," Chikara was urging his brother.

Kichi-chiyo shook his head. "No, I don't want to throw it away," he said stubbornly.

"It is no use your taking that thing home, because father won't eat it." said Chikara.

"That's a lie," retorted Kichi-chiyo. "Father likes it very much. Uncle Yoshida said he likes it too."

"But the time is different. Ordinarily he might eat it, but not today," Chikara was insistent.

"Why not?"

"What? Don't you understand yet, after all my explanations? Don't you know that our lord Asano Takumi-no-Kami committed seppuku?"

"I know that, but why shouldn't father eat mud-snails because our lord died?"

"Oh, what an ignorant child. Why, don't we abstain from meat dishes even on the days that our grandparents died?"

"But a mud-snail is not a fish."

"It's a live animal."

"Live? If you say that, even the rape-plant or the radish-plant is a live thing."

"Don't argue," said Chikara with a stern look. "Throw it away and wash your hands in that stream."

Kichi-chiyo cast a sorrowful look at the bundle, but he threw it away, and washing his hands in the stream, wiped them on his hakama.

"Oh," he said suddenly, catching sight of a familiar figure some distance away, "There's the abbot of the Shofukuji temple."

The two boys hastened their steps and stood behind the Rev. Ryosetsu, who unaware of their presence, was kneeling on the ground before the stream, and was picking some young weeds from the moist ground and putting them into the sleeves of his faded, time-worn garment.

"What are you doing, Rev. Ryosetsu?" asked Kichi-chiyo.

The Rev. Ryosetsu turned round.

"Ho," he said, his face beaming.

The Rev. Ryosetsu had a face that appealed to all boys at once. Perhaps it was because his face itself was so boyish, or perhaps because he was so full of life and spirit that he seemed to personify the late Spring sunshine that bathed the fields.

"Where have you been?" he asked jovially.

Kichi-chiyo pointed to the mountain ranges that lay behind the castle-town of Ako.

"To the Oga valley," he said.

"What for?"

"We went to see if it was true that soldiers from Himeji, Okayama, Takamatsu and other districts were pressing down towards Hosaka Peak and Takatori Pass."

"Ha. So you're a spy."

"We saw them on the sea too."

"Most likely, I should say. Kyogoku of Sanshu-marukame, Hachisuka of Awa-tokushima, Honda of Himeji, Matsudaira of Iyo, all have sent their ships round by sea, and their men overland. Ako is now surrounded by a wall of men, and spears and the muzzles of guns are pointed in this direction."

"Then it is war?"

"Well, I can't say. It all depends in which direction the clouds up above turn on this fine day."

Chikara had remained silent, with a smile on his face, whilst his brother and the abbot were conversing. But now he looked at the Rev. Ryosetsu's mud-stained hands, and asked,

"And what have you been searching for, Rev. Ryosetsu?"

"Oh, me?" The abbot glanced at the dirt that had gone in underneath his finger-nails. "I was picking some parsley but nothing except smartweed seems to grow round here."

"We can help you, if you like. Shall we pick some parsley for you?"

"No. No. That's all right. I don't need so much, and I've got enough already. Is your father at home?"

"Father is at home."

"I've been wanting to meet him for some days, but I've just managed to come out. Every time I go to his house I am treated to supper, so today I thought I would pay back his kindness by bringing some parsley with me. But parsley is scarce here. Only smartweed is abundant round here. Red smartweed here, there, and everywhere."

The Rev. Ryosetsu stood up, and began to walk. The two kept in step with him.

"Look," went on the abbot, talking as though to himself. "Red smartweed. Do you know why there's so much red smartweed in Ako?"

"No."

"My way of asking the question was wrong. I asked the question the wrong way round. This country was noted from ancient times for its red smartweed. There was so much of it that people called the country by the name of the weed. In course of time the name 'aka-tade' (red smartweed) was corrupted to 'Ako-ho' (red ears), and thus you get the Ako by which the country is now known."

"This is the first time we have heard it."

"Well, it does not matter if you don't know such things, but there's one thing you definitely ought to know."

"What is that?"

"Service."

"We are taught by our father."

"Ho, are you? Just like your father. I wouldn't be surprised if he has drilled the very word into your systems. To a samurai, service is everything. There is nothing else. You have read the teachings of Soko Yamaga, the great teacher?"

"We have."

"Then you have seen the word service explained and stressed in his writings.. What matters if in the meantime men call you a daylight lantern or a daytime moon? Look at this smartweed, for instance. Even a horse won't eat this weed, but it never forgets its gratitude and service to the sun and the soil. When the trout season comes round on the Chigusa river, the smartweed becomes indispensable, for is it not used in that delectable dish known as ayu-no-miso-yaki (trout grilled with miso)? Its taste seems to sting the very tongue. In addition, the smartweed is useful in eliminating parasitic worms in the stomach, and is good medicine for those who succumb to the summer heat.. The smartweed's service is splendid. And ordinarily, it is looked upon as a useless specimen of wild grass."

The Rev. Ryosetsu had been rubbing a blade of smartweed against his lips gently as he began his long speech, but when he ended the weed was clenched tight between his teeth.

The two boys remained silent.

"The samurai of Ako must be like the smartweed," the abbot went on. "That is how I would wish it to be. But originally, the spirit of the samurai here was not tempered only in this soft land of warmth and plenty. The blood of your ancestors runs in the veins of all in your family. Three generations later it might have been too late, that blood might have grown thin, but today it still flows thick. Do you know what I am hinting at?"

"The teachings of Soko Yamaga?"

"Soko Yamaga? Taking his influence for granted, what I mean is the influence of nature on man, of soil on blood. Soko Yamaga also was not a native of this district. He came from Aizu."

"The Ako clan used to live in Kasama in Hitachi," said Chikara. "Father told us that our forefathers all came from Hitachi. That is why he often looks at me with a smile and says, 'Son, there is Kanto bone in you.'"

"Your father was born in Ako, but he is a typical Kanto stalwart. From Kyoto westwards, the country is blessed by Nature, and it is here that the greatest cultural developments have taken place, but as a consequence there is a tendenoy on the part of the people to give way to indolence, although it must be admitted that their minds are polished by intelligence. On the other hand, Hitachi is a rough country, and its men are therefore rough. But they are renowned for their fortitude and strength of character. Your father, according to my opinion, is the personification of the middle course between these two extremes I have just outlined. The intelligence and the cultural refinement of the Kyoto area and the strength and fortitude of the rougher Hitachi Country have met, and blended in the person of your father."

Chikara was silent, but he began to have an inkling as to why the Rev. Ryosetsu, who had known his father for many years, should so suddenly take it upon himself to make a minute psychological analysis of the Chief Retainer's character. It was because the abbot was fond of Kuranosuke Oishi, because he trusted him. It was because the abbot was the only man who realized the importance and significance of Oishi's position in the clan's present predicament. So Chikara thought.

(To Be Continued)

Downfall of Australia Indicated by Character Of Half Its Population

Australian Women Are as Fair as Wayside Flowers, and as Fickle. Thunderclouds Loomed on the Horizon When They Started Going for Their Uniformed American Guests

Trees and grasses grow rapidly in Australia, where summer and spring are long, and man's children seem to grow with the same speed. They mature very early.

For instance, Australian girls are really lovely, but the beauty is limited only to the young, for, like flowers, they wither easily. I don't remeber having seen any beautiful women above thirty. As soon as they go into their thirties, wrinkles appear on their coarse but fair faces, their chin begins to sag, and they begin to put on flesh around their necks and waists, which continue to grow with the years despite their frantic efforts to reduce.

Just as flowers bloom into loud strong colors in the tropics, the women there seem to have loud tastes. Their clothes are of the most gorgeous colors and patterns. With their lips and finger nails painted dark red, they make one shiver when they come near.

Some of the outstanding features of Australia is that the climate is nice and warm throughout the year, giving very little stimulation to the people. In the homes, the women are at the head, and children are few. In accordance to the social policy of the Labor Party, the working hours are short, and no one need worry of old age, for they are given pensions when they reach the age of 60.

No Progress

The above conditions seem good, but it is through these that the Australian women have lost the will to work and progress spiritually.

As the weather is usually fine with very little rain, golf, tennis, hockey, and other such sports are quite popular among the women, not only among the young, but among ladies in their sixties, who go about the lawn in white sport dresses enjoying their game of bowling.

On weekends before the use of gasoline was limited, the young girls used to go riding over mountains and meadows, their hair fluttering in the wind, and their friends or lovers on their sides.

They also flocked to the horse races in attractive dresses, for it was here at the horse races that spring and autumn fashions began. The various fashion stores sent mannequins to the races, while the newspapers competed with one another to put pictures of wives and daughters of prominent families into the following day's issue to introduce the fashion of the season.

Attracted by the bright sunlight, the Australian girls love to be out-of-doors, allowing themselves no time to stay within with books. As their reading is so limited, they have little or no knowledge on Japan.

College Students

As for the women students in co-educational colleges, they go more to enjoy themselves than to study. There are more diligent and earnest ones among those coming to night schools after working during the day.

I asked a daughter of a university professor, who seemed very eager to become a college student, what she was looking forward to in college life.

"Oh," she answered, her eyes shining, "when you start going to everyday. I'm just tired of this high school uniform."

One of the greatest wishes of the young girls is to find some job as soon as possible so that they can become independent. When they are lucky enough to find a job, while in school, they would leave school without a minutes hesita-
college, you can change your dress
tion. Once they find a job, they pay their mother for board, and free themselves from all household duties.

Girls as early as 16 and 17, who, if in Japan, would be studying diligently in schools, begin to work and boast of how many boy friends they have, making it their highest pleasure to be taken to shows and dances by their boy-friends.

When June, July, and August, the dance season of the year, comes around, even the buses and street cars are filled with girls in long evening gowns.

After working for some years in the office, they lose all wish to work in the home for the husband and children. They hate children, nor do they like washing or cooking. They would only marry a man with money and a nice big car, and none other. But as for boy friends, the more the merrier.

Making Love

When the war broke out, they became busy making love. They had to find one in the air corps, one in the army and one in the navy. Then came the Amerisan soldiers for aid, to whom the fickle minded Australian girls were swayed in no time.

Matrimonial ties between the Australian girls and American soldiers began to spring up. Though happy-go lucky, the Australian soldiers could not just stand idle while their girls were being taken by the Americans. Finally, one Saturday night some 15 American and Australian soldiers met in Queen Street, the most flourishing street in Brisbane and parted with several killed or injured. Not long after, a proclamation was issued by the military authorities prohibiting the American soldiers from marrying any Australian girl.

Miss D. from whom I used to take English lessons was quite pro-Japanese in many ways. I remember that the following day I was interned with the outbreak of the current war, she came all the way to the place of our confinement with her not-too-strong father.

How she and the rest of the Australian girls are taking the continuous victory of the Imperial Forces, I have no idea. It is most likely that believing the empty propaganda of the Australian government and putting empty hopes on the American and English forces, they are working as usual, knitting socks for the soldiers, sewing for the Red Cross Society, and sponsoring bazaars and other such functions.

(Sumiko Kiyoda from Shukan Fujin Asahi)

American Exploitation of Hawaii

Besides Bleeding the Islands, America Prepared For War by Building Immense Fortifications

The islands of Hawaii, hitherto discussed only among round-the-world trippers, became the focus of attention all over the world when the Imperial Japanese Naval Forces carried out their amazing blitzkrieg on Pearl Harbor.

The American government used to designate Hawaii as the Gibraltar of the Pacific, priding in its possession, but the attack on Pearl Harbor has proved that it is not as impregnable as it was believed to be.

Hawaii became the possession of the United States through the so-called "sugar diplomacy." Sugar has played an important part in the history of the Hawaiian islands in connection with the United States.

Eight Islands

The Hawaiian Islands, consisting of eight islands with a total area of 6,500 square miles, lies in the tropic zone, the distance from San Francisco to Honolulu being 2,400 miles, while that from Yokohama to Honolulu is 3,400 miles.

The honor of discovering the archipelago goes to the Englishman, Captain James Cook, who landed upon Kealakekua Bay on the Island of Hawaii in 1778 and named the islands after Lord Sandwich, then First Lord of the Admiralty.

At the time of the discovery, the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, and Kauai were each ruled by a king. Then in 1798, Kamehameha, the son of a chief on the island of Hawaii, conquered the whole archipelago and established the Hawaiian Kingdom, which was to last for a century.

In 1893, during the reign of Queen Liliuokalani, the kingdom was overthrown and the Republic of Hawaii was established. The republic, however, was shortlived, for in 1898, the whole islands were annexed to the United States of America, giving birth to the Territory of Hawaii. In reality, the establishment of the republic was merely a preparation for the annexation.

One historian asserts that the annexation was a result of Queen Liliuokalani's attempt to gain more power and to establish a new constitution. However, the real cause of the annexation was the sugar problem. To prove this statement, the history of the islands shall be outlined.

Diplomatic Relations

During the monarchy, England, France, America, and Japan had various diplomatic relations with the islands, but America beat the other countries in obtaining the most favorable relationship.

When France attempted to threaten Hawaii's independence in 1849, James Buchanan, then the Secretary of State for the United States of America, sent a note to France, which was to the following effect:

"The United States of America sincerely wishes that the Hawaiian Islands retain her independence. Should England or France threaten this independence by any chance, the United States of America will be forced to stand for her own rights. The United States of America feels the necessity of taking this stand more than ever, now that she has acquired a new territory from Mexico, (note-namely, the states of California and Texas)."

Later in 1888, when England and France made a request to America for a joint guarantee for Hawaiians' independence, the latter strongly opposed it, stressing her right of priority.

Japan's relationship with the Hawaiian Monarchy began with the immigration of Japanese laborers, who gave much toward the development of the islands' sugar industry. The vanguard of these immigration laborers, numbering 150, went in 1868. In 1871, a commercial treaty was formed between Japan and Hawaii, followed by an immigration treaty in 1888.

Relationship Broken

The friendly relationship between the two countries, however, was broken in the year prior to the annexation, for the Hawaiian Government ignored the immigration treaty and prohibited the entrance of Japanese immigrants into the islands. The ruptured tie was eased, however in later years.

At the time of the annexation Japan opposed it, for her rights hitherto protected by the treaty with the Hawaiian Government would be threatened. However, the opposition brought no results, for the matter was too far advanced.

As for the history of America's exploitation in Hawaii, a group of missionaries went to Hawaii from New England in 1820, led by Hiram Bingham, and establishing a church, a school, and a hospital, taught and encouraged farming to the people.

Politics and economics of the various islands gradually went into the hands of these missionaries as well as of American capitalists and enterprisers. This gradual saturation of American capital into Hawaii helped vastly in bringing forth the annexation, which was pending from as early as the time of President Taylor (1841-1845).

In 1875, King Kalakaua formed a reciprocity treaty with America, according to which Hawaii could export her sugar to America free of duty. The ones to be profited by the treaty, however, were not the Hawaiians but the crafty American enterprisers. Then in 1890, prior to the annexation, the treaty became null throught the McKinley Tariff Law, forcing the Hawaiian sugar planters to compete with Cuba, Java, and Brazil and vastly affecting the various islands of the archipelago that were depending on the sugar industry.

Sugar Industry

It is stressed in the report handed to Washington on November 21, 1892, by the American Minister to Hawaii, Stevens, that some positive measures should be taken to save the sugar industry in Hawaii. The report further states that a large part of the estimated loss of 12,000,000 dollars would have to be burdened by the Americans living in California and in the islands.

In presenting the provisions for the annexation to be confirmed by the Senate President Harrison asserted that there were but two beneficial means left for Hawaii. One would be to become a protectorate of the United States of America, and the other, to become annexed. Of these the latter was th most advantageous for the Hawaiians and the only means for America to hold secure her rights over the islands. These rights, moreover, were not for selfish purposes but for protecting vasion.
the islands from any foreign in-

In January, 1893, a coup d'etat broke out. As it was carefully planned with a close contact with the American marines, it ended with no bloodshed. As its results, a group of men, calling themselves the Peace Committee, went to the government office guarded by the U.S. Marines. The committee made a declaration which called for the abolishment of the Hawaiian Monarchy, stating that a provisional government would be established until a treaty of alliance was formed with the United States of America.

America immediately recognized the provisional government, which was set up with Sanford B. Dole as president.

With this cup d'etat, which was mainly led by conservative high taxpayers and business enterprisers, American rights in the islands were greatly increased.

New Tariff Law

Then in 1849, a new tariff law concerning sugar went into effect, and thereby, the McKinley Law was abolished, enabling the islands to export to the United States of America and greatly develop the sugar industry.

On July 7, 1898, the American Congress passed a resolution for the annexation of Hawaii. Subsequently, Hawaii was made a territory of the United States of America according to the Organic Act which was issued on April 30, 1900. Prior to this, on August 12. 1898, all citizens of the Hawaiian Republic were made citizens of the United States of America, and a governor was appointed by the President of the United States of America with the approval of the Senate.

The legislative body of Hawaii is made of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the members of both of which are elected by the people.

All American citizens above 21 years of age with a reading and writing knowledge of either the English or the Hawaiian language, and who have been residents in the islands for over a year have the right to vote. The delegate from Hawaii to the American Congress, who is also elected by the people, has the right of expression in the legislative body but has no vote.

The statehood problem of Hawaii has been existing for the past 20 years. The problem rose from among the people, who sent petitions and resolutions to the Congress but to no avail. The cause of this failure to get any results lay in the fact that the capitalists concerned with the sugar industry and who had strong political influence over Hawaii, were opposed to statehood.

It was most natural that they who had been able to enjoy many privilege with their political and economic power under the existing government, should oppose to any change that might obstruct this privilege. They especially feared that the appointment of the governor, which hitherto had been done by the president, would fall into the people's hands, and thereby, their special privileges would be endangered.

They might have also feared that the American citizens of Japanese ancestry, who covered a large part of the population, would overwhelm the islands politically as well.

They gave the following excuses for their opposition:

1. The races aside from the Caucasians (meaning the Nipponese people) would not be able to understand the fundamentals of a state, which is peculiar to the United States of America.

2. A large part of the population in Hawaii is covered by races other than the Caucasians.

Despite the fact that the first generation Nipponese were not allowed any political privilege, these opposers brought out the Japanese language school problem, that of the second generation having dual citizenship, and other such problems that would bring the Japanese into unfavorable light.

To deprive the American citizens of Japanese ancestry of their political rights in the future, proposals were made to change Hawaii to a commission form of government. According to this system, all rights would come into the hands of a committee comprising of a few members.

However, those who were concerned more with Hawaii's future development than with the racial prejudice or with the profits that would be gained by a group of plutocrats, bluntly refused such change in the government. They feared that government from above would be even more dangerous than the Japanese problem.

Ala Moana Incident

However, the Ala Moana incident and the enforcement of the Jones-Costigan Act greatly instigated the statehood problem, leading even those who hitherto had opposed to it to advocate that Hawaii be made the 49th state.

As a result of the Ala Moana incident, Hawaii's judicial right came under the control of the American Congress, while the Jones-Costigan Act put the production of sugar in the territory under a quota basis, thus limiting the amount of sugar to be exported to the American mainland. Accordingly, the capitalists concerned with the sugar industry suddenly changed their stand and began to advocate statehood.

In September, 1931, the wife of First-Lieutenant Massey of the Amercan Navy was assaulted at Waikiki by several ruffians on her return from a dance. Five suspects were held and tried, and after a cross-examination, lasting 96 hours, the longest recorded in Hawaii's judicial history, the trial ended in failure, for the jury could not come to any decision.

While preparations were being made for the second trial, First-Lieutenant Massey and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Fortescu, and two American sailors kidnapped Kahahawai, a native Hawaiian and one of the accused and shot him to death at the home of Mrs. Fortescu.

They were immediately prosecuted as first degree murderers, but as a result of the trial were let go with the verdict of man-slaughter. Still dissatisfied with the verdict, they tried various means to justify their action, ridiculing the laws of Hawaii.

Two Lawyers

They hired two lawyers, one of whom was Clarence Darrow, a criminal lawyer well known in America. The other was a lawyer in the Honolulu Police Court. Moreover, two psychiatrists were hired from the mainland to prove that Massey was mentally affected.

The trial, however, was definitely held according to the territorial law, showing the world that in Hawaii, where various peoples are gathered and where the races enjoy equal right under the laws, such lynching action ignoring all legal steps could not be allowed. The jury likewise declared to the authorities of the American Navy that Hawaii's judicial system should be respected.

However, the American residents in Hawaii, who had come from the mainland, began to propound that Hawaii should be under a commission form of government. And finally even such people as Admiral Platt and Admiral Peytaingil, who legally speaking, had no right to interfere with Hawaii's affairs, began to advocate a government controlled by a committee consisting of Washington officials.

As a result of the Ala Moana case, bills providing that the attorney-general be appointed by the president and that the legal procedure and the jury system be reformed were passed. According to the territorial law, when a criminal case came to a dead-lock from the disargeement among the jury, the case was dropped.

Jones-Costigan Act

On the other hand, the Jones-Costigan Act placed the amount of sugar to be exported to the United States mainland under the quota system, putting the territory into a position far more disadvantageous than Cuba and the sugar producing states of the United States. Accordingly, those concerned with the sugar industry in Hawaii immediately flayed against this act, and thus came to advocate statehood for Hawaii.

Thus after the annexation, sugar has played an important part in the statehood problem of the islands. To America, however, the importance of Hawaii lies not in the sugar industry but in its function as an American naval base. This fact is well manifested in the enforcement of the Jones-Costigan Act and the efforts America has been making in building fortresses in Hawaii.

Finally, to speak of the Japanese problem, the Japanese people, who first went to the islands to work on the sugar plantations, were prohibited from further immigration simultaneously with the annexation, and for many years since, they have been suffering from many an unfair treatment.

The blow given to America on December 8 must have been a great relief to these people who had suffered much through all these years.

(The Taiyo)

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NEW POLICY DECIDED FOR COCOON OUTPUT

Propagation of New Method of Silk Growing and Other Measures to Be Followed

A new policy will be followed next year to secure the production of 63,000,000 kan of cocoons as decided upon at the 5th meeting of the Silk Committee held here December 21, says the Nippon Sangyo.

The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry is of the opinion that this quantity of cocoons is the minimum Japan requires for keeping its people decently clothed while meeting the demands for silk for other purposes.

In order to make it much easier for the silk growers to produce the quantity of cocoons specified above, the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry will extend all possible encouragement to the sericulturists, will simplify the procedures to be gone through by all silk growers in obtaining the supply of silk eggs, and will propagate a new method of silk growing.

Up to the present, any silk grower, in order to obtain the supply of the required quantity of silk eggs had to approach the silk growers' guild in his village, the silk growers' guild, in turn, approaching the federation of the local silk growers' guilds. Then, the federation would approach the silk industry control association for the supply of silk eggs required by the silk growers in the districts under the jurisdiction of the federation.

Had to Wait Long

The silk industry association, after a careful examination of the applications filed by the federation of the local silk growers' guilds, would distribute the required quantity of eggs among the silk growers. Therefore, silk growers had to wait a pretty long time before they could obtain the required quantity of silk eggs.

Beginning next year, however, all silk growers will be placed in a position to obtain the supply of silk eggs without undergoing the complicated procedures as heretofore.

In addition to the simplification of the procedures to be gone through by any silk grower in obtaining the supply of silk eggs, the authorities are considering the popularization of a new method of silk raising, which according to results of experiments conducted will considerably save the quantity of labor and mulberry leaves required in raising silkworms.

The merits of the new silk raising method are observable in the figures to follow:

	Common method	New method
Labor required:		
Result obtained by Nagano-ken experimental station.	100	68
Result obtained by Ehime-ken experimental station.	100	67
Mulbery leaves required:		
Result obtained by Nagano-ken experimental station.	100	88
Result obtained by Ehime-ken experimental station.	100	92

ALBANIAN PUPPET REGIME TO BE FORMED IN LONDON

British Step Prompted by Two Motives—Exile Governments Increasing

STOCKHOLM—The ranks of the many puppet regimes at present being maintained in London at the expense of the British Government will shortly be swelled, when an exile government of Albania, headed by ex-King Zogu, is established in the British capital, according to Swedish press reports received here recently.

This step has been prompted by Britain's desire to strengthen the partisan movement in Albania, and as another measure toward carrying out a planned "war of nerves" against Italy, according to the correspondent of the Svenska Dagbladet in London.

Ex-King Zogu is at present residing with his entourage of 30 at Henley, in the vicinity of London.

61,134 Stamps Issued

PRAGUE.—Up to May 1940 a total of 61,134 stamps were issued throughout the world, according to a Czech philatelic periodical. Of these, 20,634 were issued in Europe. A collection containing one specimen each of these stamps would cost 5,057,000,000 reichsmarks.

U.S. Cotton Crop Small

LISBON.—The shortage of labor and inclement weather are affecting this year's cotton crop in the United States, it was revealed by the Department of Agriculture, according to a Washington report. The cotton crop in November, for instance, was 347,000 bales below figures of the preceding year.

From Brine to Salt...III

Brine being allowed to flow through a series of channels to concentrating ponds constructed of concrete. The solution is then ladled out to the salt "farms" to dry.

U.S. Fails to Cultivate Rubber In S. America, Its Native Home

America's Whole Power-Driven Mass Production Industries, Entire Highway Transportation System Face Total Paralysis

(From Asiana)

When Japan moved into the Southwestern Pacific area, cutting off those regions from the democratic nations, one of the biggest topics became the Rubber Shortage in America. Bernard Baruch, U.S. Rubber baron declared in a recent issue of Time magazine that the rubber shortage in the U.S. is so serious that an economic collapse is imminent, if no immediate measures are taken. Here was a material ranking in importance with steel and oil for any nation's armed forces, without which a modern war cannot be successfully waged. As its name implies, Hevea Brasiliensis, to give the rubber plant its correct scientific name, is a native of Brazil, South America, practically in the very lap of the United States. How was this deplorable situation possible?

Many years ago the rubber capital of the world was Para. Today it is Shonan. Let us look back at the long drama of rubber's place in the world.

Source of Rubber

The dominant source of commercial rubber is the sap of Hevea, a stately ashen-barked jungle tree, native to South America. In 1900 a rubber farm was an unheard of thing. The Amazonian jungles were a sufficient source. By 1912, some 30,000 tons of natural rubber was being raised—outside South America. By 1920, 85 per cent of the world total harvest of rubber, then 340,000 tons, was grown on plantations in East Asia. Brazil's production had fallen to 30,000 tons. Jungle Hevea was on the way out.

Britain's imperialistic Foreign Office and the canny Dutch Trade Board had realized that Hevea Brasiliensis is eminently the best source of industrial rubber. Dutch botanists and British bankers (not altogether independently) acquired seeds of the best Amazone Hevea, mainly through an Englishman named Henry Wickham and quietly experimented on their tropical possessions.

Combining the warm, fertile tropic strands with the unlimited supply of labor which their hold over the native inhabitants made available, they managed not only to adapt the plant to the tropical climate and soil of British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, but even to improve the yield through intensive cultivation. The sweating millions which they had deprived of all living standards, toiled from dawn to dusk in British and Dutch plantations.

Native labor was exploited with a greedy ruthlessness that resulted in fat profits, for the principal cost of producing plantation rubber is that of labor, of which they had command of an unlimited supply, cheap. Equipment is highly standardized. Harvest is efficient in plantations and continuous.

4,000,000 Acres Under Rubber

In 1941, British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies had more than 4,000,000 acres of Amazon Hevea under cultivation, producing respectively 41 per cent and 38 per cent of the world's crude rubber supply. Wild rubber of the Amazon country was virtually abandoned. South American rubber extraction fell to 1.41 per cent. Brazil, Hevea's parent soil, found that she had to import rubber from distant Malaya.

A British-dominated cartel, backed by an aggressive British control of East Asiatic shipping, raked in enormous profits. The feeble competition of the American tropics was easily whipped and squashed. America saw the fixing of prices for what it was—a genteel holdup. But she could cry.

And then came the European War and a gloomy realization. Britain's Oriental pinnacles were threatened. Already beset by a determined Germany, her grip on the far reaches of her Empire was becoming precarious. A frantic America watched the soaring requirements of her war industries, 600,000 tons per year and perhaps over 700,000 tons in another year's time,—and sweated.

U.S. Industry Threatened

A modern army marches less on its belly than upon skid-proof tires. Without rubber, America's whole power-driven mass production industries with their millions of conveyor belts, her electrical power production and distribution and her whole highway transportation system, even the building of the very ships in her naval yards, all faced the threat of being badly crippled at best and total paralysis at worst. Something must be done. But it was already too late.

Even before the urgency of rubber supply in America's war plans had become so conspicuous, there had been groups and individuals trying to bring back the production of rubber in the western hemisphere. Some were motivated by big consumer concerns that found it galling to knuckle down to British and Dutch rubber kings; Others, perhaps more shrewdly, by a desire to be first in on the heavy rubber demand that was bound to arise whether America entered the war or not, for they had gauged the direction of Roosevelt's future plans and knew which way the wind was going to blow. America's war industry, under the Roosevelt administration was sure to grow.

There are three possible sources for assuaging the rubber hunger of the United States. First, natural rubber; second synthetic "rubber" and third, substitute rubber from gums of other vegetable growths. The only alternative that holds any hopes for commercial-scale production is that of natural rubber.

Ford Irritated

Long before the American Department of Commerce moved to establish its experimental stations in Central America, Henry Ford in a fit of irritation at the British-Dutch monopoly began in 1938 to do something about it.

First a stand of native trees was planted at enormous effort and expense. Four years of strenuous cultivation proved barren. Theoretically Hevea should have thrived in its natural habitat-the Amazon valley. But it did not, at least not in plantations. When Wickham took his seedlings to Malaya, he left their natural enemies behind. Leaf disease, from which the trees are immune in their natural scattered arrangement in the jungle, spread swiftly down the transplanted rows in the plantations. Insects descended on the leaves and root blights appeared. The climate, seemingly ideal, with temperature and rainfall similar to that of Malaysia, back-lashed too. In the Amazon valley, rainfall though approximating that of Malaya in volume was concentrated in a wet season of torrential down-pours, followed by an acridly dry season in which the soil hardened like brick or blew away in dust, because of the lack of natural forest cover that normally would have acted as a soil moisture regulator.

Fordlandia was abandoned and a new site at Belterra was selected. Here were to be brought imported stock from the Orient. Britain and Dutch planters had evolved a tree yielding 10 to 17 pounds a year. Wild trees gave only three pounds.

(To Be Continued)

SUGGEST CREATION OF ECONOMIC BODY

Diet Members to File Memorial To Gov't to Boost Production Of War Requirements

With a view to perfecting the economic structure so as to realize productivity expansion and thereby ensure a decisive victory for our country, the members of the Imperial Diet connected with the Economic Fellow Thinkers' Federation met at the Speaker's official residence on December 21 where they decided to file a memorial with the Government through General Nobuyuki Abe, chairman of the Federation, earnestly suggesting the creation of a Wartime Economic Headquarters and the appointment of responsible officials for performance of the productivity expansion program, reports the Tokyo Nichi Nichi.

The memorial in question follows in brief:

"In order to boost the production of wartime requirements and thereby ensure a decisive victory for our country, it is absolutely necessary to formulate a concrete program for production and effect a positive expansion of productive facilities in all branches of industries in the form of nationwide patriotic services and of nationwide industrial mobilization.

"The measures suggested for execution by the Government may be outlined as follows:

"1. Creation of a Wartime Economic Headquarters (tentative name).

"2. Inauguration of responsibility system in connection with production schedules and necessary modifications of present laws and regulations.

"3. Full recognition of industrial management and reformation of price policies.

"4. All-round reclamation of existing equipment and materials.

"5. Emergency measures for the labor adjustment."

LABORDE FREED AGAIN

Admiral Issued Orders for Scuttling At Toulon

BERLIN—The French Admiralty announces that the German military authorities have released again the erstwhile commander of the French fleet, Admiral Laborde, who had issued the order for the scuttling of the French fleet at Toulon.

It took the British at that time one and a half years before they released Admiral von Reuter, who had issued the order for the sinking of the German fleet at Scapa Flow, from imprisonment, the conditions of which had moreover been dishonorable, states the German Political Report.

Rubber Scarce in Britain

STOCKHOLM—Owing to a scarcity of rubber throughout the British Empire resulting from the Japanese occupation of the Netherlands East Indies and Malai, settlers in northern Rhodesia have for some time past attempted to plant rubber in that colony, according to a London report received here. All efforts to date have met with complete failure.

JAVA WORKING HARD TO UP RICE OUTPUT

Efforts Being Made to Realize Three Crops a Year—Island's Climate Is Ideal

Blessed with climatic and geographic advantages, and with a broad stretch of fertile land, the Island of Java is undeniably a Utopia of the farming community, and it is natural that the island should yield numerous and abundant agricultural products, observes a special correspondent of the Tokyo Shimbun in a recent issue of the paper.

The article continues:

"According to the territorial classifications of industries on the Island of Java, West Java is famous for the production of rice, Central Java for the cultivation of sugar, and East Java for underground resources as well as for sugar plantations.

"The policy adopted by the Nipponese authorities for the rehabilitation of Javanese industries is featured by the activities of the Agricultural Management Corporation which has been organized for the protection of the farming community which occupies 90 per cent of the entire population of the island. It is this corporation that is entrusted with the management of various parties engaged in the cultivation, storage and sale of quinine, rubber, coffee and tea. Now that the export trade of these communities has been interrupted, the corporation is doing the needful to protect the interests of local farmers.

Self-Sufficient in Rice

"Java is not only self sufficient in the staple foodstuff rice, but is able to ship substantial quantities for consumption in other parts of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. Reflecting the growing campaign for increasing the production of rice on the island, Javanese farmers are working hard for the furtherance of rice production taking advantage of the ideal climatic conditions. Under these circumstances, experts concerned are working on a schedule to harvest rice twice or even three times a year.

"True to Java's traditional fame as a "sugar kingdom," the island's industries cannot be commented upon without touching on the extensive areas of sugar plantations on the island. It is to be recalled that the Dutch authorities exerted themselves for the development of the sugar industry on the island by building a number of reservoirs and canals till Java stood next to Cuba in the output of sugar.

Sugar Mills Restored

"Thanks to the liberal funds offered and the strenuous efforts put forth by the Nipponese Military Administration, a number of damaged sugar mills have been restored to working condition. Furthermore, the machinery deliberately concealed by the Dutch army has been located and reinstalled in the mills, and thus it is that the majority of the sugar mills, totalling over 170 in number prior to the War of Greater East Asia, are now busy turning out immense quantities of the world-famous Javanese sugar.

"Next in importance come Indian corn, kapok, tobacco, coconuts, potatoes, and so forth. Their crops are estimated to exceed an average harvest for the current year, and a larger and increasing harvest is anticipated for next year. There is absolutely no worry for the population on the island about foodstuffs; on the other hand any surpluses of these agricultural products will be shipped for the various peoples in the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere."

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INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THAILAND

Thai Budget for Current Fiscal Year Is 147,681,000 Bahts in General Account, 96,157,000 Bahts in Special

Now a word about the national finance of Thailand. The revised budget for 1942 involved an annual expenditure of 219,192,000 bahts made up of 125,857,000 bahts in ordinary expenditure and 93,335,000 bahts in special expenditure (investment account) while the estimated revenue amounted to 125,850,000 bahts, resulting in a deficit of 93,335,000 bahts which, exceeding by far the budget deficit for last year of 66,000,000 bahts, was quite unprecedented in the annals of Thailand.

On account, however, of an unavoidable increase in expenditure under the exigencies of war, the Government at the end of September of this year was obliged to compile and put into force a supplementary budget involving an additional expenditure of 21,824,000 bahts and special expenditure of 2,802,000 bahts.

Thus the total expenditure for the current fiscal year reached 147,681,000 bahts in general account and 96,157,000 bahts in special account, or 243,838,000 bahts in all. In the middle of November, estimates for 147,000,000 bahts in ordinary expenditure and 129,000,000 in special expenditure, or a total of 277,000,000 bahts, were decided on for the next fiscal year of 1943.

Defense Budget Comes to 30%

Out of the various items in the ordinary expenditure for 1942, national defense expenses amount to 40,684,000 bahts, representing 30 per cent of the total, which is only natural under existing world conditions. This is followed by expenses required by the Home Ministry, amounting to 23,165,000 bahts, which shows how much importance the Government attaches to the maintenance of peace and order in the country.

Again, out of the special outgoings for 1942, totalling 93,335,000 bahts, the national defense expenditure amounts to 60,965,000 bahts representing 64 per cent of the the total. The national defense expenditure under both ordinary and special accounts amounts to 101,649,000 bahts representing 41.6 per cent of the total expenditure. Particulars of the estimates for the next fiscal year are not yet announced, but it is anticipated that national defense expenses will account for a large portion thereof.

The budget deficit against the above outgoing was to be financed by increased taxation, natural increases in miscellaneous receipts, raise in telegraphic and postal charges, large sums of reserve funds and national loan, but due to difficulty in foreign trade, the receipts from customs duty fell below the amount of 20,000,000 bahts originally expected by the Government, and it has been necessary to issue large sums of deficit bonds in order to adjust the red balance.

4.5% Bonds Authorized

In addition to deficit bonds, the Government in February this year acquired the right to issue 1,177,000 bahts of the local construction bonds and in September, by virtue of the Law for Renewal of National Loan, it was empowered to float 60,000,000 bahts of the construction bonds. The latter bonds bear an interest of 4.5 per cent per annum and are to be issued within the next four years. Out of the proceeds of these bonds, 12,000,000 bahts are to be appropriated for investment in the industrial associations, 18,000,000 bahts for protection of manufacturing industry and 30,000,000 bahts for repayment of loans of the national treasury.

Particulars of domestic loans as at the end of 1940 are as follows, (in 1,000 bahts):—

4.5% Public Bonds issued in 1933...	10,000
4.5% Industrial Association Debentures	13,500
3.5% Local Bonds..........	1,111
4.5% Industrial Bonds..........	96
2% National Savings Debentures...	439
2% National Savings Bonds.........	1,089
Total..........	26,236

Soon after the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, the Thailand Government instituted official prices for provisions and other necessaries of life, but in view of the fact that the official prices, being too low in comparison with the market prices, tended to lead to black market quotations, the Government abolished in August the official price system on provisions and daily commodities with the exception of 19 essential commodities such as sugar, soap, clothing, iron nails, chemicals, matches, steel plates, etc. At the same time, they amended the ordinance for control of daily commodities and provisions involving the intensification of penal regulations to include capital pushment and penal servitude for life or for 20 years against the offenders.

Prices Stabilized

Since then commodity prices have fallen and been fairly stabilized. This is, of course, due to the wise policy adopted by the Government, but it must be admitted that supplies from Japan are gradually benefiting the citizens in this regard. It was, for instance, due largely to the relief administered by Japan in a material way that the suffers from the recent flood came out comparatively unscathed by the shortage of commodities caused by the calamity.

During the pre-war days Thailand had been importing an average of 124,000,000 bahts worth of foreign made goods and exporting 200,000,000 baht worth of agricultural produce, the former representing 25 per cent of the total output of the country. As this large volume of merchandise stopped to flow in simultaneously with the outbreak of the War, it was only natural that prices in general should have gone up suddenly. For this reason, the Japan-Thailand Economic Agreement, in addition to having proved itself to be of considerable help in stabilizing currency as mentioned before, has been as beneficial to the people as a seasonable rain after a long spell of dry weather. However, it is, of course, not feasible for Japan under present emergency to cover all items for whose supply Thailand had been depending on abroad. The Thailand Government is, therefore, exerting its best efforts for development of domestic industry with a view to self-supply to a reasonable extent.

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TOKYO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1942

The Base Alloy of Hypocrisy

A recent dispatch from New York reports that the American nation has been presented with a detailed program for securing the rights of American Negroes as a war measure. It is significant indeed that it is only as a war measure in the present struggle for victory over foreign and domestic fascism that this so-called "Harlem Charter" has been conceded. It is said that the Charter embraces, among other things, a program for the employment of Negro labor, for the securing of their civil rights, for the improvement of their housing, health and social service, and for the extension of educational opportunities to the black people in America. But how insincere such a move is on the part of the American leaders can be judged by the history of America's treatment of the Negro.

The history of the Negro minority in America is as old as the history of America's struggle for independence. At the same time, the history of the Negro people in America is as black as the God-given skins of these children of misfortune. It is certainly no exaggeration to say that no minority group of people within any professedly civilized nation has ever been subjected to such gross, organized cruelties by the racially dominant group or groups as the American Negroes during the past three centuries. In referring to the unspeakable cruelties committed against the American Negroes by his own country, Abraham Lincoln once declared:

"Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal.' We practically read it 'all men are created equal, except Negroes.' When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equal, except Negroes and foreigners and Catholics.' When it comes to this, I shall prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy."

Granted that since Lincoln's time the American Negroes have been given some semblance of economic, political and social status, they have never been truly liberated from the realm of slavery and they have never been free men in the true sense of the term though they have been born and raised in the "land of the free."

Since the outbreak of the present world upheaval, the Anglo-American war leaders have made, under the leadership of the American President himself, a flood of declarations or statements, jointly or individually, regarding their war aims. And almost without exception these declarations have proposed, among other things, national and individual security, recognition of the supreme value of human personality and human rights, establishment of freedom of speech and of religion, freedom from fear and from want. In other words, those pronouncements embrace all conceivable good things for all peoples, for all nations, and for all men.

It is not proposed here to make any detailed appraisal of all these pronouncements. However, an attempt is made to point out a few of the many counterfeit idealisms put forth by those war leaders, especially by those in Washington, for mere propaganda purposes under the mental strain due to the continuous series of military defeats of the Anglo-American forces.

From the dawn of history down to this very moment, battles of humanity have been waged against despotism in all its many forms. The bloody struggle for American independence is one of the battles of humanity against the unregenerate British Tories whose wicked designs for the British Empire had been and still are the cause of untold miseries for millions of peoples throughout the world. America with blood and sweat succeeded in liberating herself from the shackles of British despotism. And by founding the new nation "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," the American nation made not inconsiderable contributions to the promotion of the general welfare of mankind.

Today, however, the American nation is following a course charted by ungrateful and self-centered leaders entirely contrary to the course set by the founders of the Republic. The various measures and actions emanating from their imperial and arbitrary will are transforming the country at an ever-increasing tempo into a despotism comparable to that of Britain from which their forebears delivered the nation. Under the false banner of freedom, internationalism, and common welfare, these self-centered commanders in America, in conjunction with a handful of unregenerate British plutocrats, are fast depriving the masses of the world of their freedoms, destroying their common welfare, and are attempting to reduce those lesser powers among the so-called "United Nations" to the status of virtual Anglo-American protectorates. Under the cloak of humanitarianism and progressivism, they do not hesitate to resort to all sorts of anachronistic means for the extension and protection of their special interests compelling the common peoples of the countries under their influence to give their lives by the millions "on the altar of freedom!"

In America where the leaders are preaching at the top of their voices racial and religious tolerance, equality of opportunities, respect for the rights of individuals, and other such ideals, none of these virtues is practiced by those self-appointed moralists themselves. Racial intolerance and religious bigotry have always existed in America—"the land of the free" and the home of the heterogenous population. Equality of opportunities as well a respect for individual rights have been mere magic phrases coined and publicized to delude the common people into believing in something entirely non-existent. The following passage written by a noted American author just a year ago is a vivid presentation of actual America and a living refutation of all those delusive expressions of idealism and humanitarianism which seem to be American monopoly:

"Here in the Capital of a nation dedicated to the proposition that all are created equal, one-third of the residents are forbidden the theaters and the restaurants of the principal business area, are effectively blocked in their search for employment, are commonly charged two to three times as much rent as the other two-thirds are charged for equivalent accommodations, and are hated and feared because they do not like it. . . . Washington combines the worst features of North and South; there is neither the paternalism of Atlanta and Tuscaloosa nor the relative freedom of Chicago and New York. Negroes who have lived in many parts of the country say that nowhere else in America is there such bitter mutual race hatred. The Washington Afro-American calls the city a 'cesspool of racial intolerance.'"

The foregoing passage should serve well as a sharp reminder to the self-styled moralists of America that they should engage in house-cleaning in their own premises instead of indulging in their traditional pretense of loving liberty, justice, equality, and fraternity. The peoples of the world can no longer tolerate such a base alloy of hypocrisy. No just principle of eternal values can prosper as long as such hypocrisy is allowed to assert itself within the relationship of this great universal human family. It is here suggested, therefore, that the American people should turn an attentive ear to the Voice in the Wilderness, ignoring completely the empty declarations of their war leaders, if they wish to do honor and justice to the founders of their country. Let it be remembered that in the midst of this titanic war, the whole of humanity is looking for a new world without the base alloy of hypocrisy which is the root of all evil.

A Year Ago Today

Dec. 26, 1941

From the Files of Japan Times Advertiser

The British colony of Hongkong finally surrendered yesterday evening. The enemy who had been offering vain resistance after being cornered in one section of Hongkong Island, finally proposed surrender to the Japanese Forces at 5:50 p.m. yesterday, being unable to further withstand the furious onset of the Imperial Army, Navy and Air Forces. An order to cease firing was issued to our forces at 7:30 p.m., it was pointly announced by the Imperial Headquarters at 9:45 p.m. yesterday.

* * *

Close on the heels of the Japanese land units which effected landings at Lingayen Gulf on December 22 and which are now marching southward, a strong Japanese follow-up contingent under the protection of naval escorts landed on the east coast of Luzon on December 24 at dawn, according to an announcement of the Imperial Headquarters yesterday morning.

* * *

Latest information received by the Navy Ministry concerning the occupation of Wake Island, which took place December 23, states that in the successful occupation through death-defying efforts of the Japanese Naval Forces, they captured Commander Cumming of the United States navy and 1,400 soldiers and sailors. It was found that the island was one massive fortress, being equipped with numerous pill-boxes, high-angle guns, machine-guns and many other modern armament.

COURAGEOUS STAND MAINTAINED BY PEOPLE OF CHILE, ARGENTINA

These Countries Are a Shining Symbol of Neutrality In This Distraught World

By RYOJI NODA
(From the Gaiko Jiho)

Part II

The day after its severance of relations with the Axis Powers, that is on January 29, 1942, the Brazilian Government issued a regulation restricting the freedom of the Axis nationals in Brazil. The proclamation provided that only the Brazilian language shall be used in writing and in assemblies, that without the permission of the Security Department, no Axis national may travel on train or by air, move his residence, use firearms, carry, buy or sell firearms, bullets and gunpowder.

When two Brazilian ships were sunk by German submarines and the third one was sunk on March 9 off the United States, the Brazilian Government, under the pretext of acquiring indemnity, issued a regulation on March 12 to seize the funds (bank deposits) of the Axis nationals residing in Brazil. The third sinking roused the Brazilian populace and on March 12, a mass demonstration was held at Rio de Janeiro. The wave of this sentiment sweeped into other regions.

There are about 220,000 to 230,000 Japanese residing in Brazil, particularly in the Sao Paulo area where they are peacefully engaged in agriculture. At first the attitude of the Brazilian Government toward the Japanese was very cordial but after March, the authorities became very brusque and arbitrary. Low-class officials of the Government abused their powers and influential Japanese were arrested on the ground that they were engaged in espionage activities. So outrageous and unreasonable was the treatment meted to the Japanese that the Japanese Government lodged a strong protest with the Brazilian Government, advising it to re-examine its policy.

When the Brazilian Government, which was allied with the United States in the last World War, severed its diplomatic relations with the Axis Powers, it was predicted that this would be followed by a declaration of war. The sinking of Brazilian ships by Axis submarines in the Atlantic waters became intermittent and by August 14, 1942, when an oil tanker was sunk in the Caribbean Sea the number of Brazilian ships which were sent to the bottom totaled 12. On August 21, President Vargas in two announcements declared that henceforth Brazilian ships will be escorted by air and surface craft and that a state of war exists between Brazil and Germany and Italy.

Japan Omitted

In this declaration, no mention was made of Japan. Foreign Minister Oswald Aranha clarifying the situation in a special statement, said: "The reason for the declaration of war against only Germany and Italy is that the attacks of these countries have endangered the independence, existence and the future freedom of our nation. No declaration of war has been made against Japan as she has not attacked our country." If such is the reason for not declaring war against Japan, then why at the time she severed her diplomatic relations with the Axis Powers did she also sever her relations with Japan?

Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo on December 19, 1941, just before the Pan-American Conference of Foreign Ministers convened sent special messages to Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Peru, elucidating Japan's policy and the fact that she bore no ill designs on the South American nations. In view of this fact, it would have been expected of Brazil to maintain an honorable attitude like Argentina and Chile. Furthermore, the resolution passed at the Pan-American Conference was only a recommendation and there was no reason why she could not have maintained her neutrality for two or three months or like Chile and Argentina, refused to take cognizance of the resolution and continued to maintain her economic and diplomatic relations with the Axis Powers. Had she adhered to her neutrality, she could look forward to emerging as an intact nation after the War and see her national prestige attain greater heights. It is indeed regrettable that a nation as large as Brazil should have committed herself to an action which is only suicidal.

Presses Argentina

That the United States is kicking Argentina's legs beneath the table to get her to join with the northern Colossus in the war against the Axis is clear. First the United States refused to sell munitions to Argentina under all sorts of pretexts although she supplied Brazil. To get President Ortiz in the presidency again in place of President Castillo who insists on maintaining neutrality, she has been trying to create circumstances which would make this realization possible by taking advantage of internal conditions. Next the United States requistioned an oil tanker, the Victoria, which had been built for Argentina. Furthermore, 550 rolling stock which had also been manufactured for the Argentine Government for use by its national railroads were also requisitioned by the American Government.

However, none of America's stratagems were able to bring Argentina to her knees. Instead, an anti-American sentiment began to take the people by fits and spasms. The former Governor of Buenos Aires, before an assembly of 20,000 people on May 1, 1942, declared that Argentina will stick firmly to her policy of neutrality. On May 28, 1942 at the opening of the Diet in a speech as Acting President, also on July 6 at a military social gathering of 2,000 army and navy officers after his formal assumption of office as President, in the middle part of September at a dinner party which was held specially in his honor and again on September 6 in response to a peace petition signed by over 1,000,000 people, President Castillo announced his government's unshakable resolve to maintain neutrality. The same opinion has ben continually voiced by Foreign Minister Enrique L. Guinazu.

Is Strong Economically

Unlike Brazil, Argentina has no Achille's heel, where the United States may aim her poisoned arrow. At the Pan-American Conference of Foreign Ministers, therefore, the Argentine delegate definitely opposed the United States representative. Recently she has been trying to smoothen the exchange of products with Chile and entertains the prospect of concluding an agreement with Spain for the inter-exchange of goods. If, therefore, Argentina is willing to undergo little hardship, she can without relying on the United States, create a self-sufficient economic structure. In this possibility lies the strength of Argentine neutrality.

Immediately after the return of Foreign Minister Rosetti from the Pan-American conference at Rio de Janeiro, a cabinet meeting was called at which the Foreign Minister gave a detailed report of the proceedings. On the view that the severance of relations with the Axis Powers would only bring the nation to the brink of war, the question was not brought up before the extraordinary National Congress which was then in session. On February 11, the Congress adjourned.

Juan Antonio Rios was elected to the presidency and assumed the office of chief executive on April 2, 1942. In his address before the National Congress on May 21, he expressed his determination to chart the ship of State on the course of neutrality. In his formal visit to Valparaiso for the first time on July 29 after his assumption of office, he reiterated Chile's decision to maintain neutrality. However, immediately after that, it was announced that the Chilean President would go to the United States to meet President Roosevelt. The Senate on August 24 and the Lower House on August 26 passed a resolution granting the President the right to leave the country on an official mission. Unexpectedly his visit which was feared in some quarters would affect the course of Chilean foreign relations was postponed due to an indiscreet remark made by a responsible official in the United States.

Great expectations are held for the foreign policies of the two neutral countries of South America. It will be recalled that Argentina and Chile, in face of threats and intimidations from the United States refused to participate in the last World War.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that none of the countries in South America have any animosity for Japan. The countries which have declared war on Japan or have severed their diplomatic relations have done so only under the pressure of the United States.

(End)

In the Periodicals

Shuho; a weekly published by the Board of Information, No. 324 dated December 23, 1942 (in Japanese). Leading articles: Entrance Examinations of the Middle Schools, The War of Greater East Asia and the Crew, Restrictions on Year-end and New Year Trips, and List of Standard Kanji.

Toyo Keizai Shimpo, No. 2,053 dated January 1, 1943 (in Japanese). Publishers, the Toyo Keizai Shimposha, Tokyo. Price ¥1. Leading articles: The Financial Circles in 1943, Observation for Second Year of Decisive Economic Fight, World Situation of 1943, Establishment and Advance of Nippon's Technique, and War and "Fate."

Shashin Shuho; a weekly pictorial published by the Board of Information, No. 252 dated December 23, 1942 (in Japanese). The feature article is the Character of the Battles of the Solomons.

Kaizo, Vol. 25, No. 1, January, 1943 (in Japanese). Publishers, the Kaizo sha, Tokyo. Price ¥1. Leading articles: Strengthening Fighting Power in Quality and Quantity, Fundamental Policy of Advance of Aviation Industry, Need of Establishment of Shipbuilding Plans, Problem of Economy in Central China, and Various Issues of Cultural Works in Southern Areas.

The Fujin Asahi, Vol. 19, No. 19 dated December 30, 1942 (in Japanese). Publishers, the Asahi Shimbunsha, Osaka. Leading articles: Highlights of a Round-table Conference on Girls of Today, Chungking Struggles, and Women and Things of the Southern Regions.

READERS IN COUNCIL

Peruvian Friendship

To the Editor:

There is something in the recent situation in Peru which makes me deeply concerned. Beguiled by the United States into severing diplomatic ties with Nippon, Peru has severed its relations with Japan, looted and ruined the property of our nationals in Peru who as a result of long years of diligent toil have contributed greatly to Peruvian economy through agricultural and commercial development. To cite a serious case, it has even gone so far as to evict our nationals from within its borders.

I think that our Government is doing everything to counteract the Peruvian outrage but I would like to tell of some of my own experiences and show that there are, in Peru, a number of true friends of Nippon who really understand the people of our country. Although these people are small in number they have been educated in a strict Catholic manner and their every action deserves respect. As an example I would like to tell something of the late General Cesar Canebaro.

General Canebaro

The General was a member of a distinguished Peruvian family and not only was famous as a soldier but was so popular with the people that he was finally elected to the vice presidency. I spent eight years in Peru as a student and during those years the General looked after me as if he were my father. And when I was baptized a Catholic the General acted as my godfather.

General Canebaro's attitude toward the Japanese residents in Peru was truly worthy of respect. The overseer of his manor Huaito, said to be the best in Peru, was a Japanese named Shigetaka. When the General first chose Mr. Shigetaka to be the overseer of his manor the native workers, resenting having to work under a foreigner, walked out in a general strike but General Canebaro did not back down and firmly supported Mr. Shigetaka. Since then Mr. Shigetaka was charged with the whole business of the manor.

Moved by the General's deep trust in him, Mr. Shigetaka did his utmost with the result that the manor was run in an extremely satisfactory way. Why did General Canebaro trust the Japanese so deeply and appoint one to a post of great importance? Because he recognized and admired the moral excellence of the Japanese.

He always used to say that the Japanese were truly industrious and that as friends they could not be equalled. Favors extended to other foreigners were forgotten once they returned to their countries. But when he did any small favor for a Japanese, he would always receive letters and other indications that the favor was being remembered even long after the recipient of the favor had returned to his native soil. The General always used to say that he was struck by this sense of gratitude.

Noble But Natural Attribute

Such a thing to the Japanese is normal, a matter of course. But in foreigners such a trait is rare and it is pointed out as a beautiful Japanese attribute in all parts of the world. We have been brought up in a spirit intact from the age of the gods and in our daily lives there is that full spirit intact so that to send a letter to a friend who once did one a favor is taken as natural. This spirit was part of even an immigrant who migrated to the far shores of South America.

I think that for the Peruvians to recognize and appreciate this attribute they, the Peruvians themselves, have something in them. Based on my personal experience I know that although small in number there are some South Americans who, in their public or private lives, are admirable personalities, comparable to the Japanese. And it seems strange to me that the various nations in South America are now, manipulated by insidious American propaganda, showing an irrational attitude toward Nippon.

These people believe absolutely in the Japanese and know the superiority of the Japanese national structure and are of course opposed to such an outrageous move as a severance of diplomatic relations with Nippon. It is regrettable that the ignorant masses have been carried away by the torrent of Anglo-American propaganda.

I strongly hope that the small number of those who know and understand the real situation would lead the various South American countries and save their nations from Anglo-American evil

SABURO YOSHINO

December 24.

THE MIRRORS OF THE HEROIC AGE

The Night Battle of Kawagoe

By SANTARO
Of Japan Times Advertiser Staff

IX

A few days before this part of the s'ory was written the writer took a day off to visit Kawagoe and roamed over the site where the Kawagoe Castle s'ood and over the probable region where the famous battle was fought four centuries ago; he tried to visualize, if possible, Hojo Ujiyasu's amazing strategy in this campaign and his tactical movement on the night of April 20, 1546.

Kawagoe, as many readers are doubtless aware, is now a thriving commercial town, that is the most populous and the most flourishing city in Saitama Prefecture, reached by electric railway from Ikebukuro, Tokyo in about 40 minutes. The train stops at both "Kawagoe" and "Kawagoe Shi" (Kawagoe City), and the site of the Castle is 10 to 20 minutes' walk from there. It is a clean, bustling little town, a regular "Little Tokyo" in every way; its main street with its wide macadamized roadway is flanked with big shops and towering stores wearing a smart modern air and is busy with the traffic of buses, autos and bicycles, etc.

Kawagoe Topography

The site of the Castle is on the outermost edge of the city, now occupied by the prefectural Middle School, Commercial School and other public buildings, and one can find hardly any trace of what was once one of the most spectacular cas'les in Kanto built by Ota Dokan and the strongest of military bulwarks in the days of the Hojos. The small notice put up before the Middle School indicates that its ground was part of the Hon-maru—Inner Citadel—of the Castle. A large part of what now forms the residen'ial quarters in the immediate a vicinity of the Middle School was evidently part of the Castle ground. There is some trace, if you look for it closely enough, of what might presumably have been one of the outlying moats around the Castle. (A good map of the Castle ground with its various towers and edifices and surrounding moats is preserved at the Middle School and may be shown by special permission. At the back of the Middle School there is spacious ground partly occupied by the Miyoshino Shrine, the Butoku-den (military-ar's exercise hall), etc., the rest being left unoccupied, fit to be parade ground. Here one sees what one may construe as part of the outer walls of the old citadel. But beyond this part there lies a wide stre ch of cul'ivated field, characteristic of the proverbial vastness of Musashi plain, i's golden monotony being broken here and there by some clusters of houses or trees, forming, as it were, Oasis in the desert. On the other side of the Castle lie the residential quarters of Kawagoe city, made of many flat houses packed together, which if we could remove by some magic, we might have the same flat extensive view varied only by the broad Iruma river running from northeast to southwest and the Chichibu mountain range afar in the horizon.

Wolves Among Sheep

Standing upon a knoll which might have been part of the ancient bank around the Cas'le, I surveyed the surrounding landscape, and though a rank amateur in the science of military strategy I was satisfied that night-attack was the only possible mode of fighting by which Ujiyasu or any other warrior could have effected a breach through the besieging forces ten times as strong as himself. If you stood on a tower you could easily have counted, almost to the last man, so small an army as Ujiyasu's 8,000, if they came in broad daylight. According to the old rule of siege war the investing army must have a strength at least four time that of the garrison. Supposing that the Uyesugis had set apart 10,000 men against the 3,000 of the garrison, they still had nearly 80,000 to cope with Ujiyasu's 8,000. Under such circumstances it would have been impossible to create any impression on the Uyesugis unless he had some effective cover under which to conceal the meagerness of his numbers which by light of day would have been all too apparent to anyone who had half an eye to see on such a theater of war.

Hence the night battle—the only practicable logic of Kawagoe topography and Hojo man-power. He came like the thief in the night at the psychological moment when the Uyesugis slept most profoundly, lulled by their own sense of security and invincibility. It was now no miracle at all which it once seemed to be, that Ujiyasu with his few could crush Uyesugis' many like pulp. So the battle itself may be very briefly told. Ujiyasu divided his 8,000 into many compact units, but directed [illegible] against the [illegible] sugi Generals [illegible] the Castle [illegible] s'aged a sortie [illegible] was launched [illegible] the camp of [illegible] lied Commander [illegible]

[illegible] sounded the great horn, ordering general retreat, and Tsunashige turned about face, as did all the Hojo fighters, and they gathered round the standard marking Ujiyasu's headquarters. There was a sentimental meeting between Ujiyasu, and Tsunashige and Katsuhiro, congratulating one another upon the glorious victory but ascribing its merits to one another.

(To Be Concluded)

Fruits of Wisdom

A heap of ill-chosen erudition is but the luggage of antiquity.—Balzac.

* * *

Ignorance of all things is an evil neither terrible nor excessive, nor yet the greatest of all; but great cleverness and much learning, if they be accompanied by a bad training, are a much greater misfortune.—Plato.

* * *

The knowledge we have acquired ought not to resemble a great shop without order, and without an inventory; we ought to know what we possess, and be able to make it serve us in our need.—Leibnitz.

* * *

Leisure is beautiful garment, but it will not do for constant wear.—Anon.

I am never less at leisure than when at leisure, nor less alone than when I am alone.—Scipio Africanus.

* * *

A little knowledge leads the mind from God. Unripe thinkers use their learning to authenticate their doubts. While unbelief has its own dogma, more peremtory than the inquistor's, patient meditation brings the scholar back to humbleness. He learns that the grandest truths appear slowly.—Willmott.

* * *

Spare minutes are the gold-dust of time; the portions of life most fruitful in good or evil; the gaps through which temptations enter.

* * *

If you lend a person money it becomes lost for any purposes of your own. When you ask for it back again, you find a friend made an enemy by your own kindness. If you begin to press still further, either you must part with what you have lent or else you must lose your friend.—Plautus.

* * *

A wish to possess knowledge, but few, comparatively speaking, are willing to pay the price.—Juvenal.

* * *

As to lawyers, their profession is supported by the indiscriminate defense of right and wrong.—Junius.

* * *

Learning maketh young men temperate, is the comfort of old age, standing for wealth with poverty, and serving as an ornament to riches.—Cicero.

* * *

It is by the benefit of letters that absent friends are, in a manner, brought together.—Seneca.